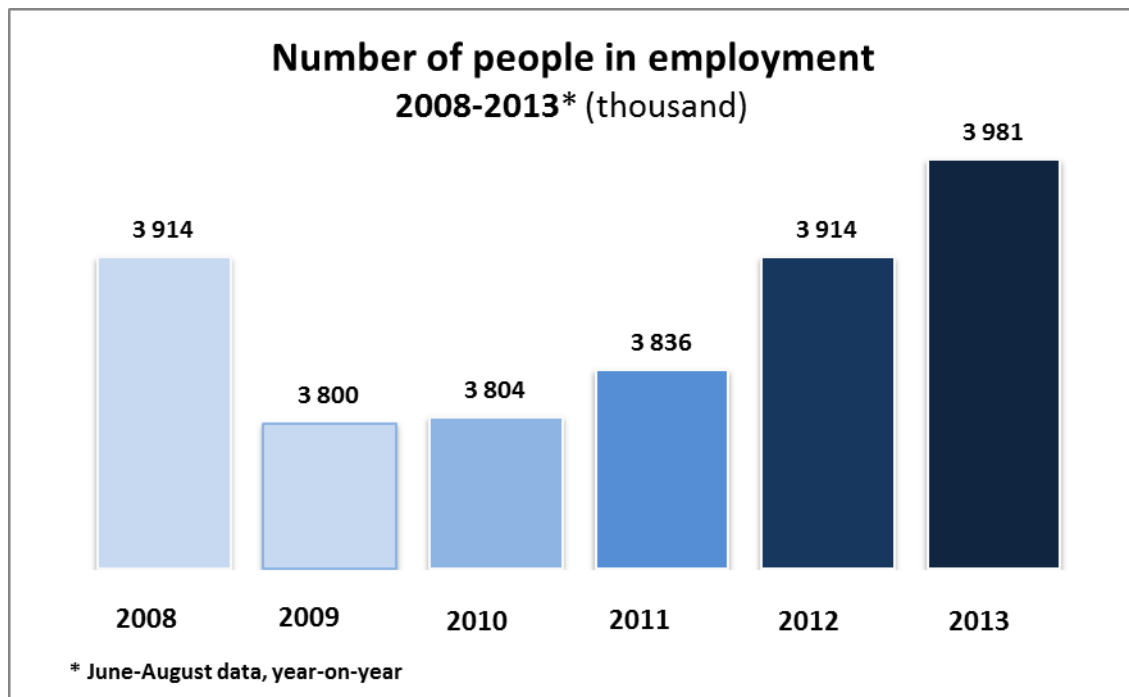




Employment at a record high while unemployment slips below 10 percent in Hungary

Employment increased further in Hungary: in June-August 2013, 67 thousand more people were in employment compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. **The number of people in employment aged 15-74 years hit a historic high of 3 million 981 thousand.** This figure is 1.7 percent higher than that of the same period of 2012, while the employment rate improved to 52.2 percent among those aged 15-74 years.

The employment rate for those aged 15-64 years – an indicator closely watched by the European Union – **increased to 59 percent after improving by 1.2 percentage points**, an increase of 70 thousand people year-on-year. In this age bracket, the number of those in employment was 3 million 948 thousand in the observed period.



Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH)

As far as the gender aspect of employment is concerned, in June-August 2013 the number of **men in employment aged 15-64 years** was 2 million 144 thousand, while the respective employment rate edged up to **65.3 percent, a gain of 2.1 percentage points.** The number of



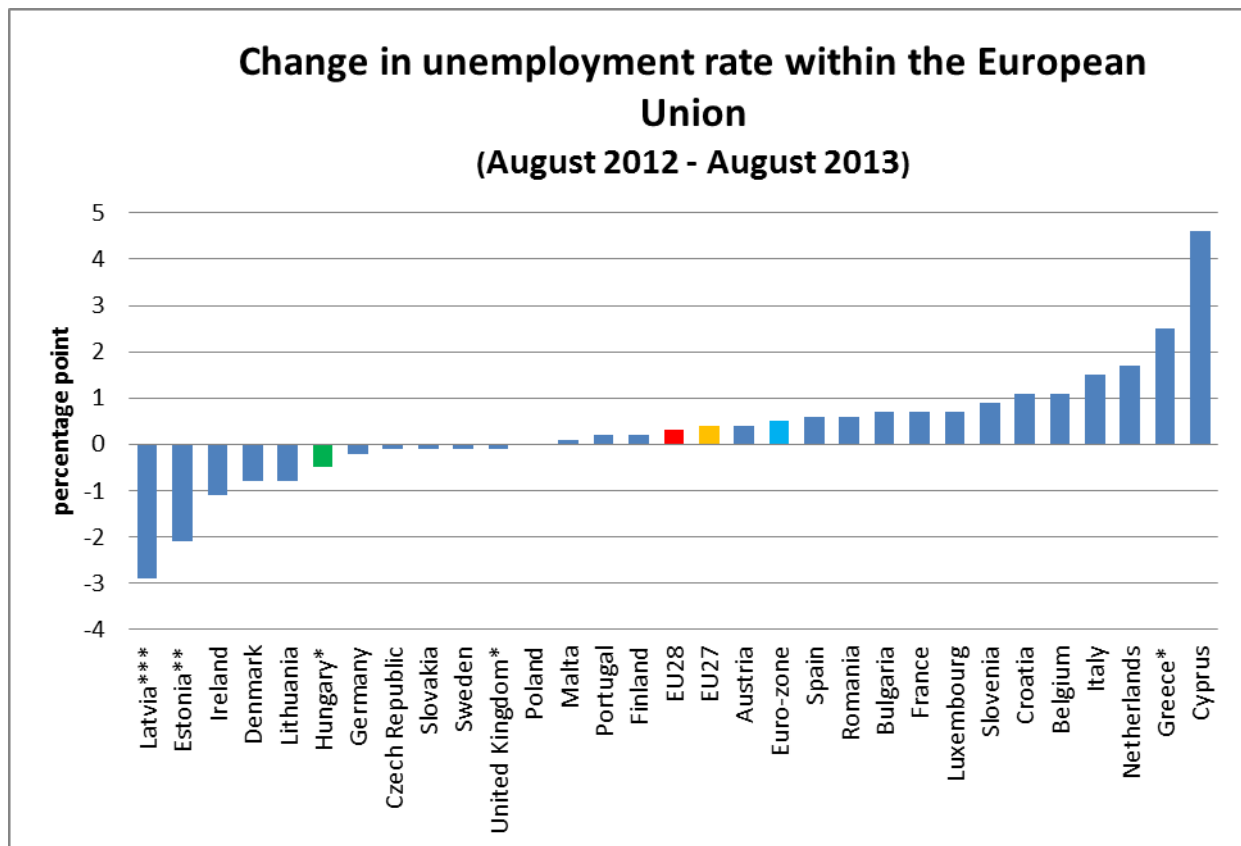
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women in employment aged 15-64 was also up, to 1 million 803 thousand, whereas the employment rate for this group increased by 0.3 percentage points to 52.9 percent.

In the age bracket of 15-24 years, 230 thousand people were in employment, after the respective employment rate improved by 1.9 percentage points to 20.3 percent in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year. **The employment rate for people in the prime working age of 25-54 years was up by 0.7 percentage points to 76.1 percent**, and the employment rate among those aged 55-64 years also increased by 1.4 percentage points to currently 38.9 percent.

In Hungary, the unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 9.9 percent in June-August 2013 compared to the same period of 2012. The indicator has not been this low since the same period of 2009, four years ago. **The unemployment rate among those aged 25-54 years was 8.8 percent, the best figure since the onset of the crisis.** Within this most active age bracket, the number of unemployed decreased by almost 20 thousand year-on-year. **Over the past six months, since January-March 2013, the number of unemployed people was down by more than 69 thousand.** The 27.9 percent unemployment rate within the age bracket of 15-24 years – the smallest labour market segment – was down by 1.2 percent compared to the level of one year ago.

In light of the latest Eurostat data – which include monthly statistics, and are therefore different from those compiled by the Hungarian statistical method – **the seasonally adjusted eurozone unemployment rate was 12.0 percent in August**, which figure was flat in comparison to July, but 0.5 percent higher than the indicator of one year ago. **The unemployment rate for the entire EU** was on a par with the level of the previous month at **10.9 percent**. Compared to the same period of the previous year, the indicator for the EU 28 deteriorated by 0.3 percentage points.



Source: Eurostat

The unemployment rate increased in 16 EU member states, declined in 11 of them and it stagnated in Poland in comparison to the level one year ago. The largest increases, of 4.6 percentage points, were observed in Cyprus and Greece, while Latvia and Estonia were the most successful in bringing down this indicator. The indicator in Hungary fell by 0.5 percentage points, and thus the country is one of six states where the rate declined to the largest extent.¹

The measures of the Government – *Job Protection Action Plan, First Job Guarantee Programme* – have been the major factors behind the favourable labour market trends. Recently published macro-economic data (indicating increasing investment, higher real wages and improving employment) are also signalling that the Hungarian economy is back on a growth path which is expected to lead to economic growth of 2 percent in 2014.

¹ Data for August 2013 are not available for each member state: unemployment change calculated on the basis of data from *June 2013, **July 2013, ***Q2 2013.