

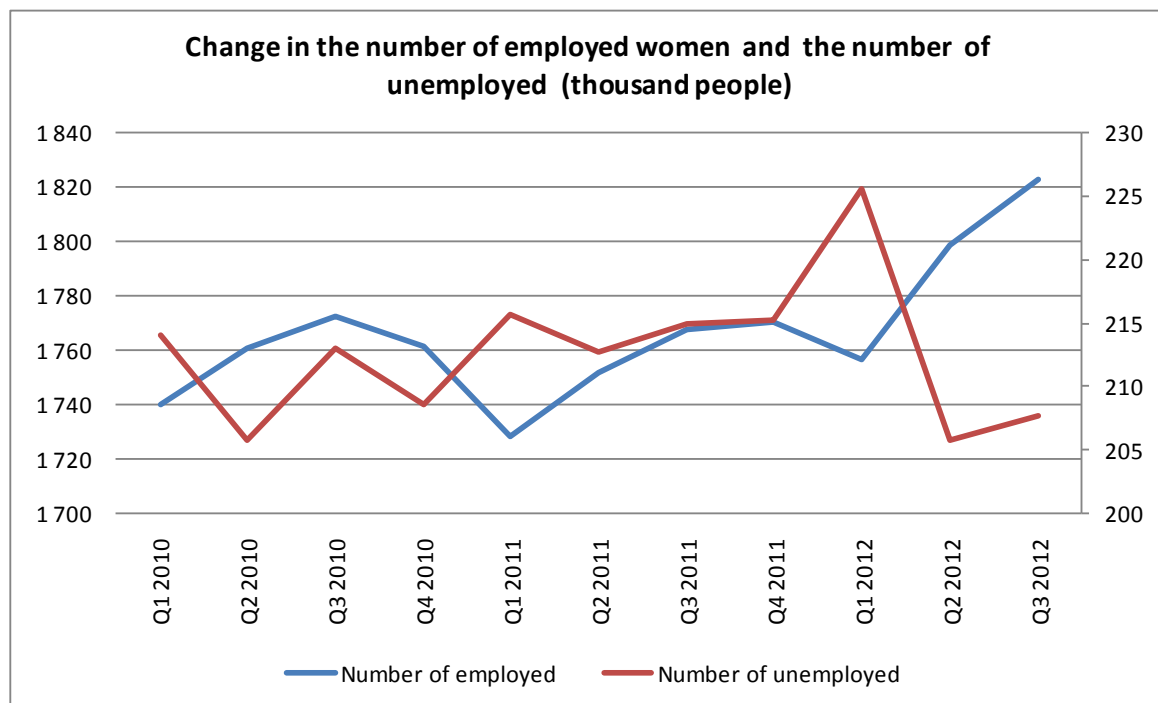
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Employment situation of women improved significantly on the Hungarian labour market

The economic role of women and their labour market participation has been an issue gaining more and more significance. Hungary is no exception: **via the National Cooperation Programme the Hungarian Government aims to create a more family-friendly labour market. One of the Programme's pivotal elements pays special attention to women's employment**, as without improving it a family-friendly Hungary cannot be established. In addition, without solving the issue of women's employment the Government's strategic objective of creating one million new jobs over ten years cannot be attained either. Consequently, it has been a priority for the Government to provide more relevant opportunities on the labour market for women.

One step in this direction was the appointment of a Ministerial Commissioner responsible for improving the labour market prospects of women in April 2012. **The new Labour Code effective as of July 2012** established the framework which has been essential for a more flexible, **family-friendly labour market**.

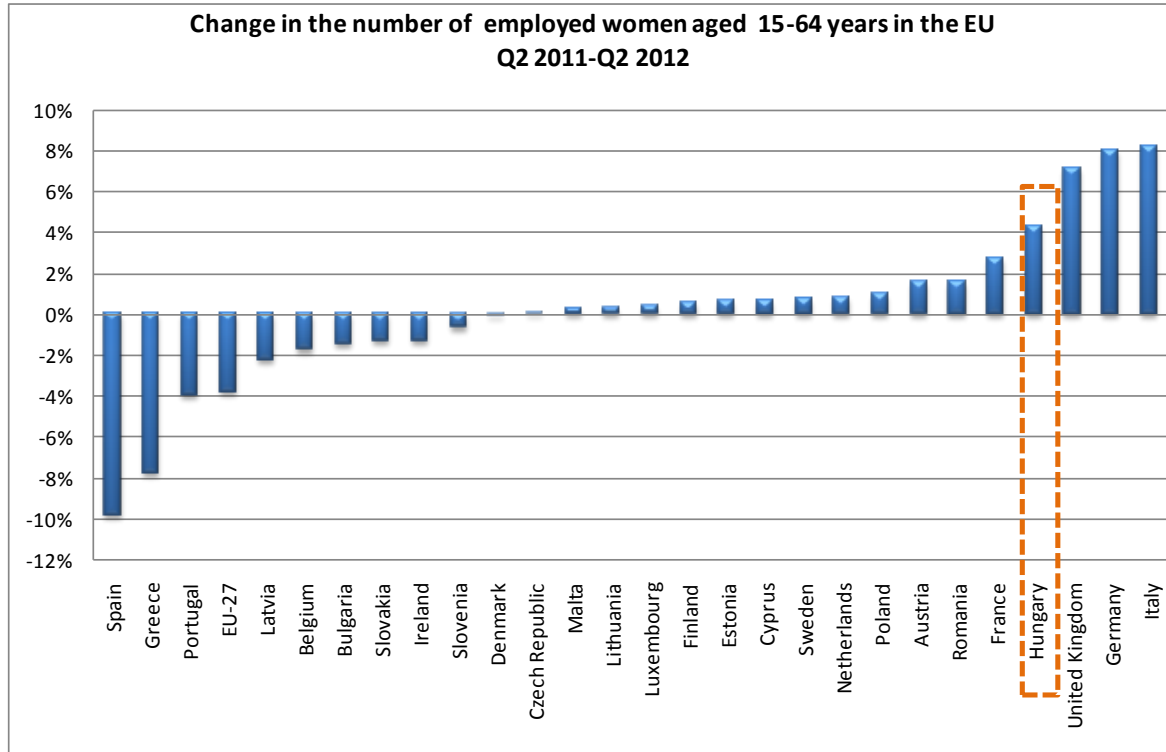
In contrast with EU trends, in Hungary the presence of women on the labour market has recently become more pronounced. In the EU the number of women employed declined in the second quarter of 2012 and unemployment rate among them increased; whereas **in Hungary women's employment has improved and the unemployment rate decreased in this period**.



Source: KSH

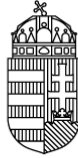
In Q3 2012, 1.82 million women aged 15-64 years had a job in Hungary, and such a high figure has not been registered since 1992. **The number of employed women in July-September 2012 was up by 57 200 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.** In this period the total number of employed increased by 79 300, and the 72 percent of this were women. The ratio of employed women within the entire population has steadily increased in the past couple of years, and as a consequence this indicator edged up from 50 percent at the beginning of 2010 to 53 percent by the third quarter of 2012.

European data on women's employment are currently available for the second quarter of 2012. Statistics for this period signal Hungary's significant improvement in this field in a European comparison.

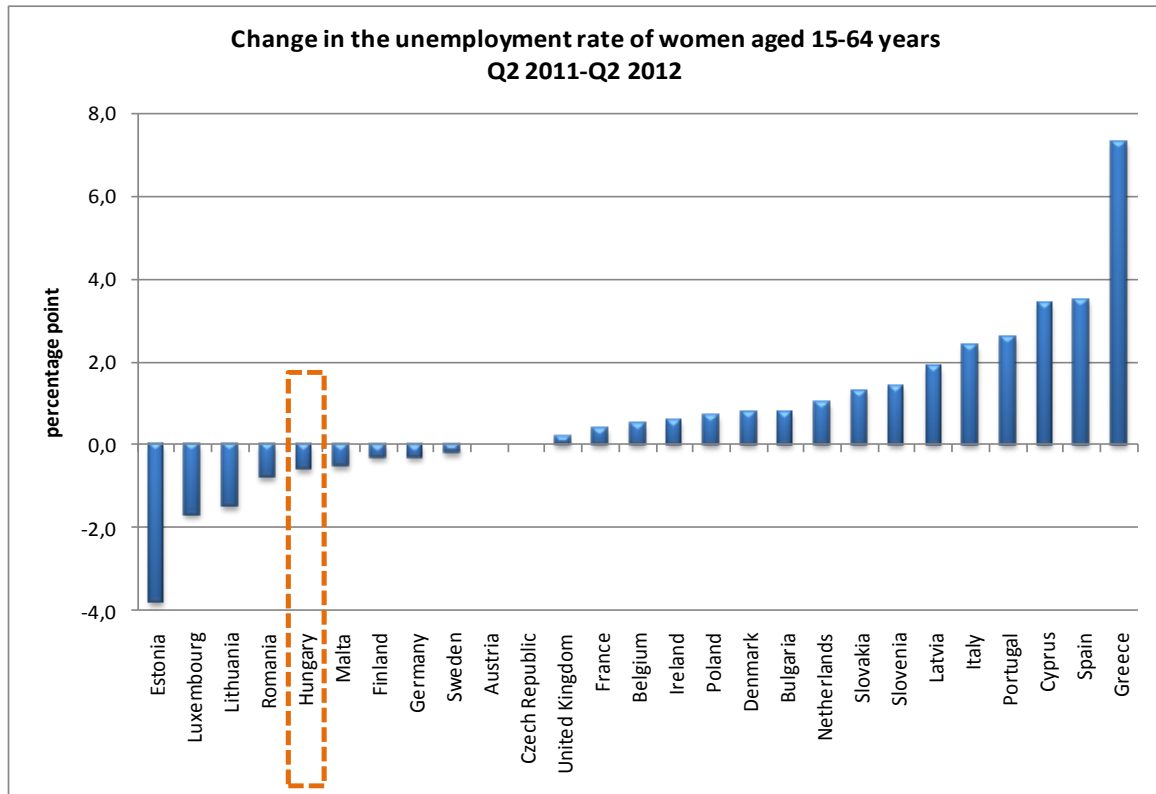


Source: Eurostat

Compared to the same period of the previous year, the increase in the number of employed women was the fourth largest in Hungary among the 27 member states of the EU (in comparison to Q2 2011). In the second quarter of 2012, in Hungary 48 000 more women had a job than in the corresponding period of the previous year.

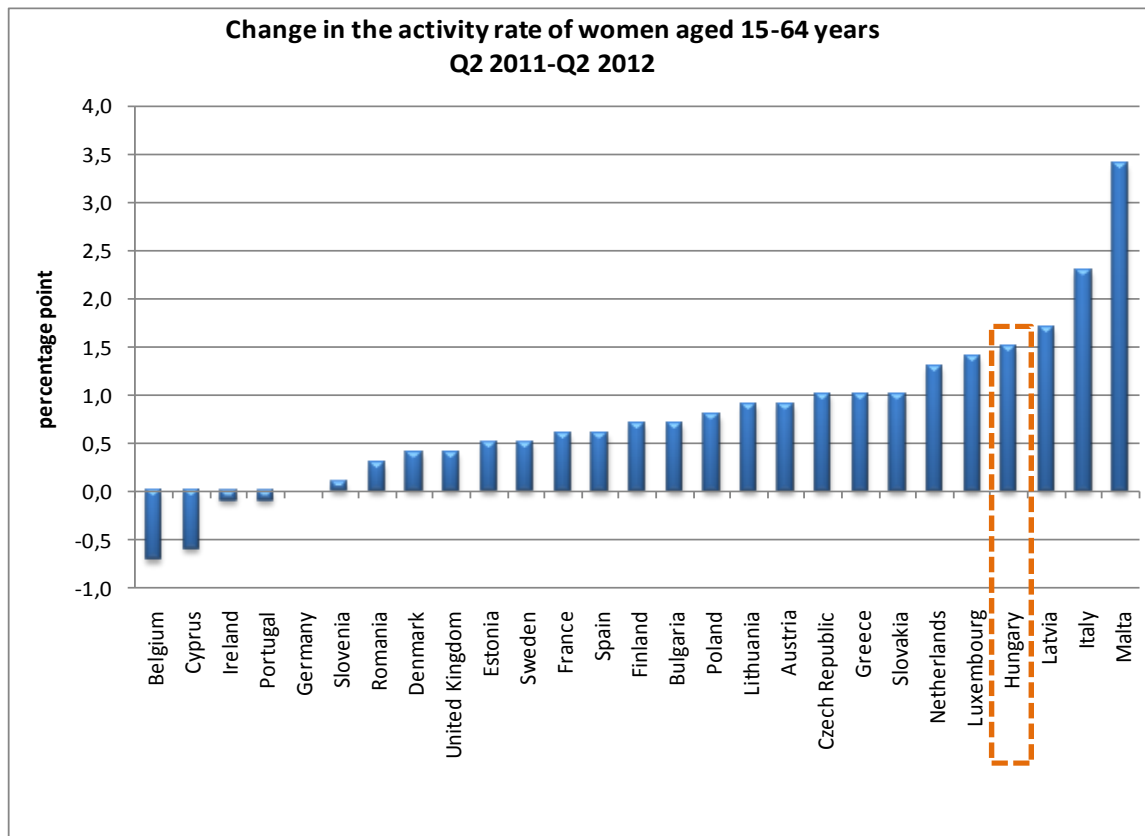


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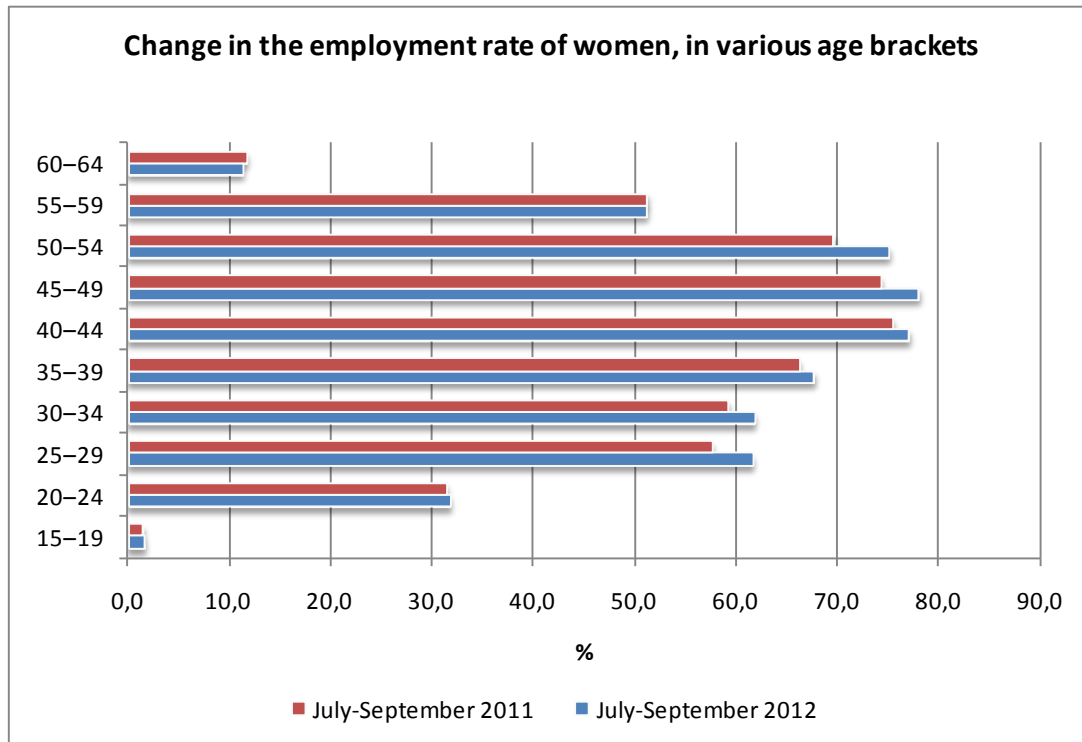
Source: Eurostat

Recently the unemployment rate of Hungarian women has also improved substantially. **Women's unemployment indicator deteriorated in 16 EU member countries in the second quarter of 2012**, while it was unchanged in two of them, and **Hungary was among those nine countries where the unemployment rate for women declined**: the indicator decreased from 10.9 percent in the third quarter of 2011 to 10.3 percent by the corresponding period of 2012. As a result, the current unemployment rate of women corresponds to that of the EU average.



Source: Eurostat

The activity rate, which stands for the ratio of economically active population who are present on the labour market compared to the total working age population, also shows a favourable picture. In the second quarter of 2012 the 58.2 percent of women were active in Hungary, and that has been a great improvement compared to the level of 56.7 percent recorded one year ago. With regard to the activity rate increase of women, **Hungary is now ranked fourth among the EU member states.**

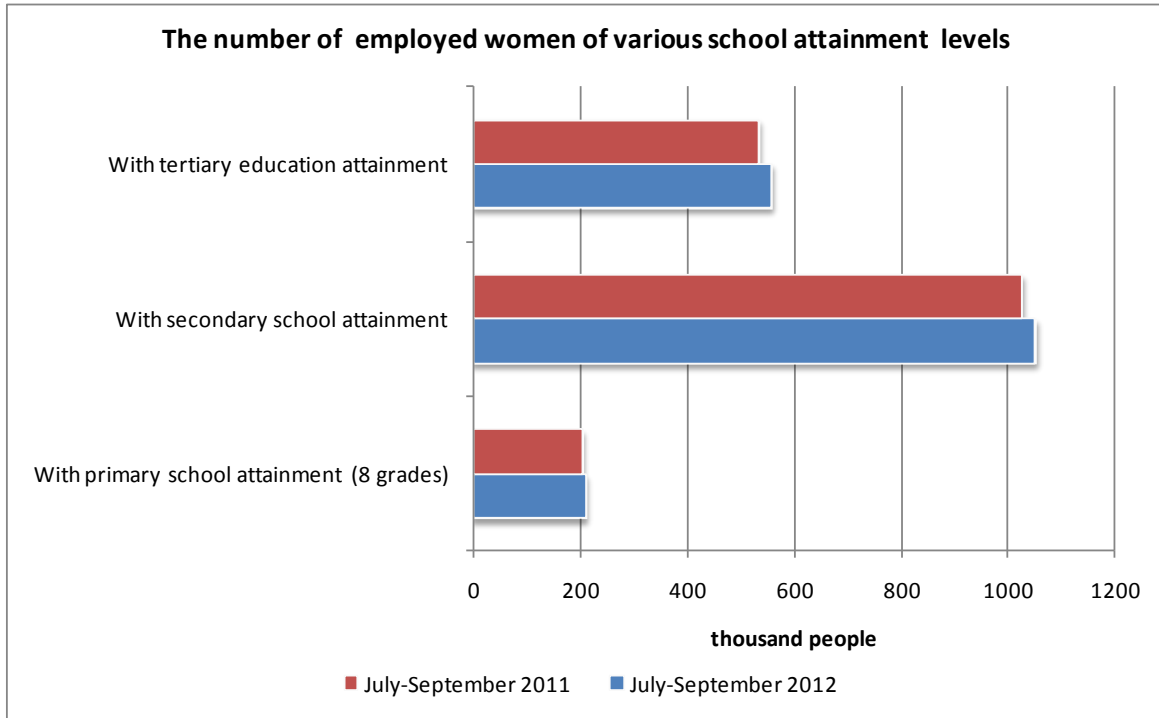


Source: KSH

The employment rate increased in almost every age bracket in the third quarter of 2012, except for elderly people (those above the age of 55 years). The indicator showed the largest change among those aged 50-54 years, but markedly more women worked in the age groups of 25-29 years and 45-49 years as well. Several experts had voiced their concerns that the new Labour Code effective since July 2012 which shortens the dismissal ban period for mothers returning to work after maternity leave would hamper their employment. This nonetheless has obviously not been the case, as the number of women entering the labour force increased among those aged 30-34 years and 35-39 years as well in the third quarter of 2012. Furthermore, **due to the targeted social contribution cuts of the Job Protection Action Plan the employment rate of those above the age of 55 years is also expected to improve from 2013 on.**

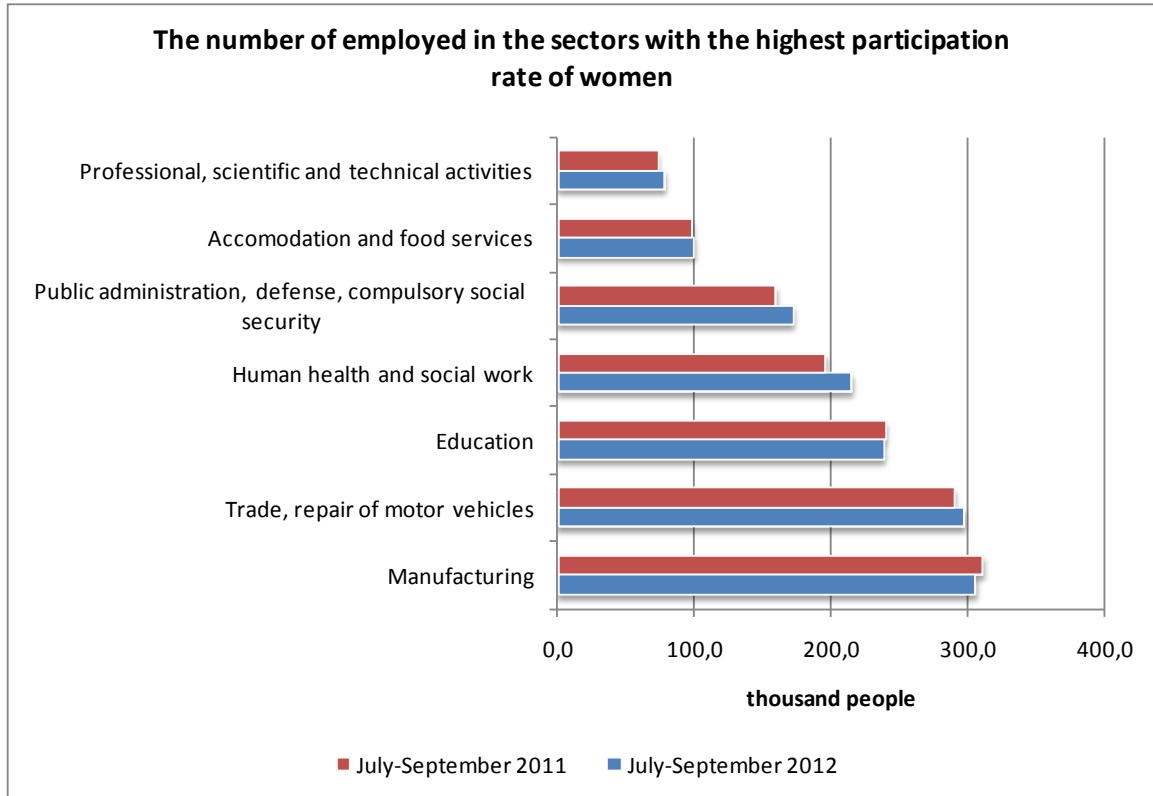


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Source: KSH

Employment of women increased regarding every school attainment level. On the basis of school attainment, those with a final exam from a secondary school but without a university degree have contributed to the largest extent to the increase of women's employment. However, employment has also improved among women with primary school attainment (8 grades) or even less.



Source: KSH

The increase regarding the employment of women was significant in retail and wholesale trade, human health and social work as well as in public administration, defense and compulsory social security sectors. According to international forecasts, information communication, social services and green economy are expected to be significant sectors from this aspect in the future.