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# Cassa Integrazione<sup>1</sup>, Dismissals and Unemployment

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In the first half of the year the authorized hours of Cassa Integrazione Guadagni grew by 3.2% in Italy and by 1.8% in the Milan Area as compared with the same period of 2011. The growth was due to CIG Ordinaria mainly.

Instead, the value of June diminished compared to May both in Italy (-10%) and in the Milan Area (-29%). According to INPS the value of June was «a cyclic, seasonal data». Indeed, the authorized hours in June 2012 were higher than in June 2011 (+16% in Italy and +6% in the Milan Area).

As regards the **Assolombarda companies**, the authorized hours of CIG Ordinaria decreased by 15% compared to May 2012 and constituted 45% of the total authorized hours in the Milan Area.

In Italy the unemployment rate went down to 10.1% in May from 10.2% in April and it remained below the European average (11.1%). In Europe the unemployment rate grew in France and in Spain, while the German rate was static below 6% since many months. After a dwindling period, the unemployment rate increased in the USA, too.

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Cassa Integrazione Guadagni (CIG) is a specific Italian shock absorber. It is a redundancy fund which helps companies to maintain the labour force in times of economic difficulties. It allows workers to receive a part of their wages. There are three kinds of CIG: Ordinary (Cassa Integrazione Ordinaria – CIGO), Extraordinary (Cassa Integrazione Straordinaria – CIGS) and Special (Cassa Integrazione in Deroga – CIG in Deroga).

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