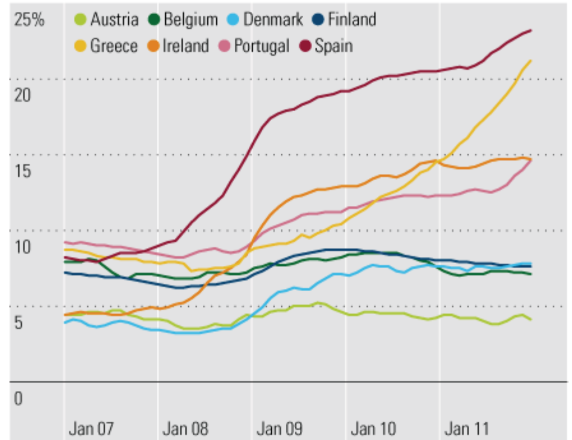
Unemployment Rates in the European Union

- Though the European debt crisis has apparently lost the media's attention, European political leaders still need to implement fiscal measures (i.e., spending cuts and/or tax increases) that voters will ultimately find distasteful.
- Just as in this country, politicians need to find the political will to make the necessary changes in order to return the European Union to a path of sustainable growth.

The ongoing European sovereign debt crisis has negatively impacted many European nations, with unemployment rates confirming the deteriorating market conditions in some of these countries. A look at unemployment rates for 8 countries in the European Union shows that over the last 5 years (based on data availability), many of these countries saw their unemployment rates rise. In 2007, all 8 countries had their unemployment rates under 10% but by the end of 2011, unemployment rates in Spain, Greece, Ireland, and Portugal were well over 10%. Spain and Greece were affected particularly hard, posting 23.2% and 21.2% unemployment rates, respectively.

As of November 2012, the U.S. unemployment rate was 7.7%. While by no means a healthy number, it appears that the U.S. job market still stands considerably better than several of these European countries analyzed.

Unemployment Rates in 8 EU Countries January 2007–December 2011



Source: Unemployment data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Comparisons database. The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 27 European countries that together cover much of the continent.

Louis E. Conrad II, CFA
President

COMPASS Wealth Management
Post Office Box 250
Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

lconrad@compassinvest.com
www.compassinvest.com

Tel:(978) 828-5681
Fax:(781) 862-7030

2013 FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL Wealth Manager MULTI-YEAR WINNER