



This update: Next update: 03-Apr-19 14-May-19

DG ECFIN - Directorate A - Policy, strategy and communication

1.0	strategy and commun	LTA ⁽¹⁾	2017	2018	18Q2	18Q3	18Q4	19Q1	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19
1. Output												Ť		
Economic Sentiment	indicator	100.0	110.1	111.2	111.8	110.9	108.9	106.0	109.7	109.5	107.4	106.3	106.2	105.5
Industrial confidence	balance	-5.5	5.6	6.6	7.8	5.9	3.6	-0.5	4.2	4.4	2.3	0.6	-0.4	-1.7
Services confidence	balance	10.1	14.6	15.1	15.1	15.3 -0.1	13.4 -1.2	11.5	<u>14.0</u> 0.1	14.0	12.2	11.0	12.1	11.3
Industrial production (excluding construction)	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year		2.9	1.0	2.3	0.6	-1.2		1.2	-1.5 -2.9	-0.9 -4.2	1.4 -1.1		
	% ch. on prev. period		2.7	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.2		1.2	-2.7	-7.2	-1.1		
Gross domestic product	% ch. on prev. year	1.6	2.4	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.1							
Tabana and description	% ch. on prev. period				0.0	-0.1	0.0							
Labour productivity	% ch. on prev. year	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.2	-0.2							
2. Private consumption														
Consumer confidence	balance	-12.0	-3.4	-8.3	-5.4	-6.2	-8.3	-7.2	-5.9	-6.6	-8.3	-7.9	-7.4	-7.2
Retail confidence	balance	-8.7	2.3	1.3	0.5	1.8	-0.3	-1.1	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1	-2.1	-1.3	0.2
Private consumption	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year	1.3	1.6	1.3	0.2 1.4	0.1 1.0	0.2 1.0							
	% ch. on prev. period		1.0	1.5	0.9	-0.1	0.7		0.7	0.9	-1.4	0.9	0.4	
Retail sales	% ch. on prev. year	0.8	2.5	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.7		2.7	1.9	0.5	2.2	2.8	
3. Investment	1													
Capacity utilisation	level (%)	81.0	83.0	83.9	84.0	83.8	83.6	83.6	83.6			83.6		
Production expectations (manuf.)	balance	7.3	16.5	16.1	16.9	15.6	14.1	8.7	14.8	15.2	12.3	10.0	9.0	7.0
Gross fixed capital formation	% ch. on prev. period				1.5	0.6	0.6							
	% ch. on prev. year	1.6	2.6	3.0	2.8	3.5	2.8							
- equipment investment	% ch. on prev. period		5.6	5.1	2.3 6.3	0.9 5.7	0.0 2.8							
	% ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. period		5.6	5.1	1.4	0.2	0.8							
- construction investment	% ch. on prev. perioa % ch. on prev. year		5.3	5.5	6.4	4.6	5.4							
Change in stocks	contrib. to GDP (pp.)	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.3	-0.4							
4. Labour market	WI /													
Employment expectations (manuf.)	balance	-7.7	7.6	9.1	10.0	8.1	7.4	3.4	7.8	7.6	6.8	4.7	4.0	1.6
Employment expectations (services)	balance	6.1	11.1	13.0	14.0	12.6	11.5	9.7	12.2	12.5	9.8	9.3	10.0	9.8
Employment	% ch. on prev. period				0.4	0.2	0.3							
-	% ch. on prev. year	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.3							
Employment (000)	abs. ch. on prev. period		2,462	2,320	0.6	373 0.7	404 0.4							
Compensation of employees per head (nominal)	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year	2.0	1.6	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.3							
Unemployment expectations	balance	24.8	2.4	8.5	-1.9	5.3	8.5	5.9	5.4	6.2	8.5	6.4	5.9	5.9
Unemployment rate	% of lab. force		9.1	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.9		8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	
Unemployment (000)	abs. ch. on prev. period		-1,494	-1,371	-414	-343	-170		7	-142	-124	-53	-77	
5. International transactions														
World trade	% ch. on prev. period				0.2	1.3	-1.0		1.5	-1.9	-2.1	2.3		
	% ch. on prev. year	47.0	4.7	3.3	3.8	3.6	1.4		5.3	0.6	-1.8	0.0		
Export order books	balance	-17.8	-1.4	1.2	2.9	1.1	-2.6	-7.3	-1.3	-2.1	-4.5	-5.9 17.0	-6.6	-9.4
Trade balance (merchandise)	billion EUR % ch. on prev. period		240.3	193.9	50.8	41.4 0.2	44.4 0.9		13.3	15.1	16.0	17.0		
Exports of goods and services	% ch. on prev. year	4.9	5.2	3.0	4.0	2.9	1.5							
	% ch. on prev. period				1.3	1.1	0.5							
Imports of goods and services	% ch. on prev. year	4.6	3.9	2.9	2.7	3.7	2.4							
Current-account balance	billion EUR		361.9	342.6	96.1	76.2	65.3		26.5	22.6	16.2	36.8		
Direct investment	billion EUR		124.5	299.6	27.5	20.2	111.5		71.0	-8.6	49.1	-12.2		
Portfolio investment	billion EUR		266.4	68.5	39.5	34.8	-1.6		-13.3	-11.3	23.0	-1.2		
6. Prices				10.5		***		45.0			10.5		40.0	
Consumer inflation expectations Headline inflation (HICP)	balance	18.6	13.7	18.7	17.5 1.7	20.1	18.7	17.0	21.6	21.2	18.7	15.5	18.0	17.0
Core HICP	% ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year		1.5	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.9		2.3	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.5	
Domestic producer prices	% ch. on prev. year		3.0	3.2	2.8	4.3	4.0		4.9	4.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	
Import prices	% ch. on prev. year		2.2	1.3	1.1	2.5	1.7		2.5	1.6	0.9	0.6		
r	level		54.7	71.6	75.0	75.8	68.3	63.7	80.6	66.3	57.3	60.1	64.5	66.9
Oil (Brent) in USD	% ch. on prev. period				11.4	1.2	-9.9	-6.8	2.0	-17.8	-13.5	4.8	7.3	3.8
	% ch. on prev. year		21.3	30.8	47.6	45.4	11.2	-5.4	39.8	5.3	-10.8	-12.9	-2.0	0.0
	level		48.5	60.7	63.0	65.2	59.9	56.1	70.2	58.3	50.4	52.6	56.8	59.2
Oil (Brent) in EUR	% ch. on prev. period				15.0	3.6	-8.2	-6.4	3.6	-16.9	-13.6	4.5	7.9	4.3
	% ch. on prev. year		18.9	25.0	36.4	46.8	14.7	2.4	43.0	8.8	-7.1	-7.0	6.7	9.1
						-4.9	0.1	3.1	3.0	-0.4	-2.1	1.4	5.4	-0.7
Non-energy commodity prices (EUR)	% ch. on prev. period		0.1	2.0			0.3	1.5	1.5	0.1	2.2	2.2	2.0	
			9.1	-3.0	2.6	-0.5	-0.3	1.5	1.5	-0.1	-2.2	-2.3	2.9	3.7
7. Monetary and financial indicators	% ch. on prev. period		9.1	-3.0			-0.32	-0.31	-0.32	-0.1	-0.31	-0.31	-0.31	-0.31
	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year				2.6	-0.5								
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month)	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year		-0.33	-0.32	-0.33	-0.5 -0.32	-0.32	-0.31	-0.32	-0.32	-0.31	-0.31	-0.31	-0.31
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level level		-0.33 0.37	-0.32 0.46	-0.33 0.48	-0.5 -0.32 0.37	-0.32 0.37	-0.31 0.12	-0.32 0.46	-0.32 0.38	-0.31 0.25	-0.31 0.18	-0.31 0.12	-0.31 0.05
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate Stock market (Eurostoxx)	% ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year level level level % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year		-0.33 0.37 0.00	-0.32 0.46 0.00	2.6 -0.33 0.48 0.00 0.2 -1.9	-0.5 -0.32 0.37 0.00 -1.6 -1.6	-0.32 0.37 0.00 -7.6 -12.0	-0.31 0.12 0.00	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.8 -10.4	-0.32 0.38 0.00 -1.6 -11.5	-0.31 0.25 0.00 -4.2 -14.2	-0.31 0.18 0.00 1.2 -14.5	-0.31 0.12 0.00 4.2 -6.1	-0.31 0.05 0.00
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate Stock market (Eurostoxx) Money demand (M3)	% ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year level level % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year		-0.33 0.37 0.00 16.2 4.9	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.1 3.9	2.6 -0.33 0.48 0.00 0.2 -1.9 4.0	-0.5 -0.32 0.37 0.00 -1.6 -1.6 3.7	-0.32 0.37 0.00 -7.6 -12.0 3.9	-0.31 0.12 0.00 1.5 -7.6	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.8 -10.4 3.8	-0.32 0.38 0.00 -1.6 -11.5 3.7	-0.31 0.25 0.00 -4.2 -14.2 4.1	-0.31 0.18 0.00 1.2 -14.5 3.8	-0.31 0.12 0.00 4.2 -6.1 4.3	-0.31 0.05 0.00 3.5 -1.2
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate Stock market (Eurostoxx) Money demand (M3) Loans to households	% ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year level level % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year		-0.33 0.37 0.00 16.2 4.9 2.9	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.1 3.9 3.2	-0.33 0.48 0.00 0.2 -1.9 4.0 3.0	-0.5 -0.32 0.37 0.00 -1.6 -1.6 3.7 3.1	-0.32 0.37 0.00 -7.6 -12.0 3.9 3.2	-0.31 0.12 0.00 1.5 -7.6	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.8 -10.4 3.8 3.2	-0.32 0.38 0.00 -1.6 -11.5 3.7 3.3	-0.31 0.25 0.00 -4.2 -14.2 4.1 3.2	-0.31 0.18 0.00 1.2 -14.5 3.8 3.2	-0.31 0.12 0.00 4.2 -6.1 4.3 3.3	-0.31 0.05 0.00 3.5 -1.2
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate Stock market (Eurostoxx) Money demand (M3)	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level level % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year		-0.33 0.37 0.00 16.2 4.9 2.9 3.1	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.1 3.9 3.2 3.9	2.6 -0.33 0.48 0.00 0.2 -1.9 4.0 3.0 4.1	-0.5 -0.32 0.37 0.00 -1.6 -1.6 3.7 3.1 4.3	-0.32 0.37 0.00 -7.6 -12.0 3.9 3.2 3.9	-0.31 0.12 0.00 1.5 -7.6	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.8 -10.4 3.8 3.2 3.9	-0.32 0.38 0.00 -1.6 -11.5 3.7 3.3 4.0	-0.31 0.25 0.00 -4.2 -14.2 4.1 3.2 3.9	-0.31 0.18 0.00 1.2 -14.5 3.8 3.2 3.4	-0.31 0.12 0.00 4.2 -6.1 4.3 3.3 3.7	-0.31 0.05 0.00 3.5 -1.2
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate Stock market (Eurostoxx) Money demand (M3) Loans to households Loans to non-financial corporations	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level level level % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level		-0.33 0.37 0.00 16.2 4.9 2.9	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.1 3.9 3.2	2.6 -0.33 0.48 0.00 0.2 -1.9 4.0 3.0 4.1 1.19	-0.5 -0.32 0.37 0.00 -1.6 -1.6 3.7 3.1 4.3 1.16	-0.32 0.37 0.00 -7.6 -12.0 3.9 3.2 3.9 1.14	-0.31 0.12 0.00 1.5 -7.6 1.14	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.8 -10.4 3.8 3.2 3.9 1.15	-0.32 0.38 0.00 -1.6 -11.5 3.7 3.3 4.0	-0.31 0.25 0.00 -4.2 -14.2 4.1 3.2 3.9 1.14	-0.31 0.18 0.00 1.2 -14.5 3.8 3.2 3.4 1.14	-0.31 0.12 0.00 4.2 -6.1 4.3 3.3 3.7 1.14	-0.31 0.05 0.00 3.5 -1.2
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate Stock market (Eurostoxx) Money demand (M3) Loans to households	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level level level % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level % ch. on prev. year		-0.33 0.37 0.00 16.2 4.9 2.9 3.1 1.13	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.1 3.9 3.2 3.9 1.18	2.6 -0.33 0.48 0.00 0.2 -1.9 4.0 3.0 4.1 1.19 -3.1	-0.5 -0.32 0.37 0.00 -1.6 -1.6 3.7 3.1 4.3 1.16 -2.3	-0.32 0.37 0.00 -7.6 -12.0 3.9 3.2 3.9 1.14 -1.9	-0.31 0.12 0.00 1.5 -7.6 1.14 -0.5	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.8 -10.4 3.8 3.2 3.9 1.15 -1.5	-0.32 0.38 0.00 -1.6 -11.5 3.7 3.3 4.0 1.14 -1.0	-0.31 0.25 0.00 -4.2 -14.2 4.1 3.2 3.9 1.14 0.1	-0.31 0.18 0.00 1.2 -14.5 3.8 3.2 3.4 1.14 0.3	-0.31 0.12 0.00 4.2 -6.1 4.3 3.3 3.7 1.14 -0.6	-0.31 0.05 0.00 3.5 -1.2 1.13 -0.5
7. Monetary and financial indicators Nominal interest rates (3 month) Nominal interest rates (10 year) ECB repo rate Stock market (Eurostoxx) Money demand (M3) Loans to households Loans to non-financial corporations	% ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level level level % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year level		-0.33 0.37 0.00 16.2 4.9 2.9 3.1	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.1 3.9 3.2 3.9	2.6 -0.33 0.48 0.00 0.2 -1.9 4.0 3.0 4.1 1.19	-0.5 -0.32 0.37 0.00 -1.6 -1.6 3.7 3.1 4.3 1.16	-0.32 0.37 0.00 -7.6 -12.0 3.9 3.2 3.9 1.14	-0.31 0.12 0.00 1.5 -7.6 1.14	-0.32 0.46 0.00 -3.8 -10.4 3.8 3.2 3.9 1.15	-0.32 0.38 0.00 -1.6 -11.5 3.7 3.3 4.0	-0.31 0.25 0.00 -4.2 -14.2 4.1 3.2 3.9 1.14	-0.31 0.18 0.00 1.2 -14.5 3.8 3.2 3.4 1.14	-0.31 0.12 0.00 4.2 -6.1 4.3 3.3 3.7 1.14	-0.31 0.05 0.00 3.5 -1.2

⁽¹⁾ LTA=Long-Term Average





1. Output

According to Eurostat's estimate (t+65) **real GDP** growth continued at a moderate pace in 2018-Q4. It increased by 0.2% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q), up from 0.1% the third quarter. As compared to 2017-Q4, GDP increased by 1.1%, after 1.6% in the previous quarter. Annual GDP growth in 2018 stood at 1.8%, slightly lower than the Commission's winter 2019 interim forecast (1.9%) published on 7 February.

In March 2019, the Commission's **Economic Sentiment Indicator** decreased (by 0.7 pts. to 105.5 pts.) after remaining almost unchanged in February. Following a decline in each of the nine preceding months, the ESI is now at a 29-month low. The latest declineresulted from lower confidence in industry and, to a lesser extent, services, while confidence improved in retail trade and construction and remained broadly stable among consumers.

The marked decrease in **industry confidence** (by 1.3 to -1.7) resulted from managers' more pessimistic views on all three components, i.e. production expectations, the current level of overall order books and the stocks of finished products.

The **PMI Composite Output Index** for the euro area decreased from 51.9 in February to 51.6 in March. This decrease reflected a fall in the manufacturing sector index from 49.3 in February to 47.5 in March, which is the lowest level since April 2013. The manufacturing sector has now been reporting a contraction in output for two consecutive months (below-50 threshold). At the same time, the PMI Output Index for the service sector remained broadly stable (53.3 compared to 52.8 in February). In January, **industrial production** increased by 1.4% (m-o-m) after a decrease by 0.9% in the previous period. In comparison with the same month of the previous year, industrial production declined by 1.1% (compared to a decrease of 4.2% in December).

2. Private consumption

In 2018-Q4, the growth rate of **private consumption** increased to 0.2% q-o-q (0.1% in 2018-Q3) and contributed 0.1 pps. to GDP growth. With respect to the same period of the preceding year, private consumption was up by 1.0%, the same as is the preceding quarter. In March, **consumer confidence** increased marginally by 0.2 pts. to -7.2 pts., which was the third consecutive increase. It resulted from households' more positive assessments of their past financial situation and their expectations about the general economic situation, partly offset by a slight decrease in their intentions to make major purchases. Consumers' expectations of their future financial situation remained broadly stable.

In February 2019 compared with January, the volume of **retail trade** increased by 0.4%, (0.9% in the previous month). Compared with the same period of the previous year retail trade volume increased by 2.8% (2.2% in January). **Retail trade confidence** in March increased by 1.5 pts. to 0.2pts.. The increase was due to more positive views on all its components: the present and expected business situation, and managers' assessment of the adequacy of the volume of stocks.

3. Investment

In 2018-Q4, gross fixed capital formation increased by 0.6% (q-o-q) in the euro area, stable compared with 2018-Q3. As compared to the same period of the previous year it increased by 2.8%, down from 3.5% in the preceding quarter. In 2019-Q1, the capacity utilisation rate in manufacturing (survey conducted in January) remained unchanged from the previous quarter (at 83.6%), above its average level since 1990 (81%), for the seventh consecutive quarter. The rate of capacity utilisation in services increased to 90.7% in 2019-Q1 from 90.1% in 2018-Q4.

4. Labour market

Labour market conditions remain favourable. In February 2019, the **unemployment rate stood at** 7.8%, unchanged from January and down from 8.5% in February 2018. It is at its lowest level since October 2008.

In 2018-Q4, **employment** growth was up to 0.3% q-o-q from 0.2% in the preceding quarter (in terms of employed persons). Compared to the same period in 2017, employment increased by 1.3% (1.4% in 2018-Q3).

According to the Commission's March survey, **employment expectations** deteriorated in industry, construction and services, while increasing slightly in retail, with all sectors still reporting positive balances. Consumers' unemployment expectations remained unchanged in March at 5.9 pts. and well below the long-term average.

5. International transactions

In January, the CPB **world trade volume** (goods) increased by 2.3% (m-o-m), after sharp declines in the prior two months, by 2.1% and 1.9% in December and November, respectively. Both the declines in late 2018 and rebound in January were led by China, with trade in the euro area holding up relatively well, both in January and December. The contraction in trade in late 2018 has brought the momentum in world trade down to -1.8% (3m-o-3m) in January, the lowest since 2009. In March, the assessment of **export order books in manufacturing** decreased further (from -6.6 pts. to -9.4 pts.), in line with a downward trend observed since early 2018.





In January 2019, the seasonally adjusted **trade balance** stood at \in 17 bn, slightly up from \in 16 bn in December 2018. The seasonally adjusted **current-account balance** increased from \in 16.2 bn in December 2018 to \in 36.8 bn in January 2019. This is mainly the result of a higher surplus for goods (by \in 9 bn) and in primary income (\in 11.5 bn), while the service- and secondary income balances were broadly unchanged.

6. Prices

In March 2019, the rate of annual **HICP inflation** decreased to 1.4% according to the flash estimate (down from 1.5% in February). Looking at the main components, energy is expected to have had the highest annual rate (5.3%, up from 3.6% in February), followed by food, alcohol and tobacco (1.8%, down from 2.3%), while the lowest inflation rates were recorded for nonenergy industrial goods (0.2%, down from 0.4%) and services (1.1%, down from 1.4%). Core inflation (all items excluding energy and unprocessed food) is expected to have declined to 1.0% (from 1.2% in February).

The Commission's winter 2019 forecast projects headline inflation at 1.4% in 2019 and 1.5% in 2020. According to the Commission surveys, **consumer price expectations** decreased in March.

In February, **industrial producer prices** were up by 0.1% (m-o-m, 0.3% in January) and by 3.0% (y-o-y), which mainly reflected the increase in the energy component (8.0% y-o-y) and to a lesser extent increases in the components for durable consumer goods (1.4%), capital goods (1.5%) and intermediate goods (1.3%).

Towards the end of last year, Brent crude **oil prices** had been falling amid concerns over excess supply and a deteriorating global economic outlook. After reaching a 13-month low slightly above 50 USD/bbl. on 24 December. They returned to above 60 USD/bbl in the middle of January 2019 and have recently moved up towards 70 USD/bbl. On 2 April 2019, Brent crude traded at 69.37 USD/bbl (61.98 EUR /bbl).

7. Monetary and financial indicators

Money market interest rates have remained close to the ECB's deposit facility rate. On 2 April, the 3-month EURIBOR stood at around -0.34%.

At its meeting on 7 March 2019, the ECB Governing Council decided to keep the **ECB interest rates** on the main refinancing operations and the interest rates on the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility unchanged at 0.00%, 0.25% and -0.40%, respectively. The Governing Council expected them to remain at their present levels "at least through the end of 2019.". The

forward guidance was reinforced by the reinvestments of the principal payments from maturing securities acquired under the **asset purchase programme** (APP) It was also decided to conduct a new series of quarterly targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III), starting in September 2019 and ending in March 2021, each with a maturity of two years.

Benchmark sovereign bond yields in the euro area have been decreasing since October 2018 from a monthly average of 0.46% to 0.05% in March 2019. They reached negative values in the end of March. On 1 April, the benchmark sovereign bond yield in the euro area stood at -0.02%.

The January 2019, the ECB **bank lending survey** pointed to broadly unchanged credit standards in 2018-Q4 after a long period of overall easing. Demand for loans had increased across all loan categories in late 2018.

In February 2019, the annual growth in M3 accelerated to 4.3% from 3.8% in January. Meanwhile, the annual growth rate of loans to the private sector (adjusted for loan sales, securitisation and notional cash pooling services) increased to 3.2% in February from 3.0% in January. The annual growth rate of adjusted loans to households stood at 3.3% in February, compared to 3.2% in January, while the growth rate of loans to non-financial corporations increased to 3.7%, from 3.4% a month before.

At its meeting on 19-20 March, the Federal Reserve's FOMC decided to maintain the target range for the **U.S. federal funds rate** at 2.25-2.50%. In its statement, the FOMC assessed that "the labour market remains strong", but "growth of economic activity slowed". It pointed to global economic and financial developments and muted inflation pressure, justifying its patience in future adjustments of its interest rates. On 2 April, the USD 3-month Libor rate stood at 2.60%.

Since October 2018, the **EUR/USD exchange rate** has been broadly stable, fluctuating between 1.12 and 1.16. On 2 April, the reference rate stood at 1.12. In nominal effective terms, the euro has weakened in March by 0.6% compared to February and by 2.9% compared to March of the previous year.

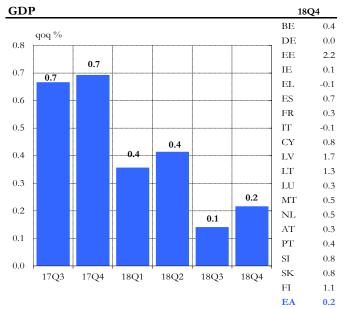
Stock market indices moved higher in recent months recovering losses incurred over 2018. In the 31 days to 2 April, Dow Jones increased by 0.6% and is currently 8.9% higher than a year ago. In the same time, Euro STOXX 50 increased by 2.5%, but is currently just 1.5% higher than a year ago. Nikkei 225 behaved a bit differently. It lost 0.5% in the last month, and is currently only 1% higher than a year ago.



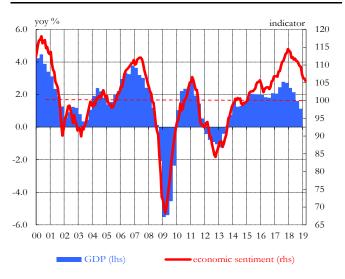




1. OUTPUT

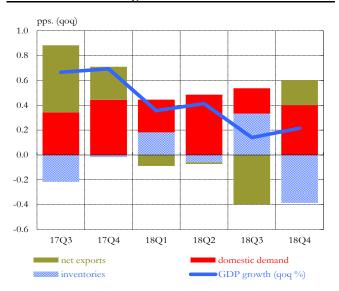


GDP and Economic Sentiment Indicator

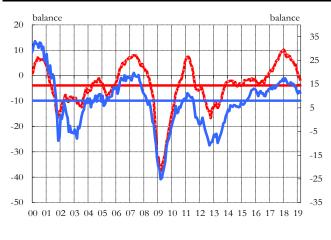


Industrial production Feb-19 BE DE 15 4.5 EEΙE 5 FR IT-5 CYLV LT 0.3 LU -15 -20 NL ΑT -25 PΤ -2.9 $00\ 01\ 02\ 03\ 04\ 05\ 06\ 07\ 08\ 09\ 10\ 11\ 12\ 13\ 14\ 15\ 16\ 17\ 18\ 19$ SI SK 3-month moving average - industrial production FΙ ΕA

Contributions to GDP growth

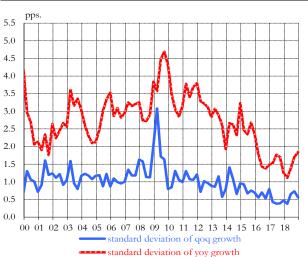


Industrial and services confidence



industrial confid. and long-term average (lhs)
services confid. and long-term average (rhs)

GDP growth divergence, euro area*



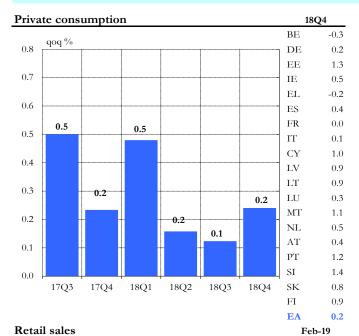
* Calculations since 2015 without Ireland.







2. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION



BE 1.1 DE 8.0 1.6 EE ΙE 6.0 8.5 EL. 5.3 ES 4.8 4.0 FR 2.0 IΤ 2.0 CYLV 6.0 0.0 LT 8.0 -2.0 LU 5.3 4.2 МТ NL АТ 1.8 РΊ 4.8 $00\ 01\ 02\ 03\ 04\ 05\ 06\ 07\ 08\ 09\ 10\ 11\ 12\ 13\ 14\ 15\ 16\ 17\ 18$ SI 11.8 SK retail sales 3-month moving average

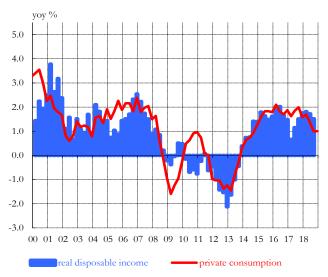
Households: real disposable income and consumption

 $_{\mathrm{FI}}$

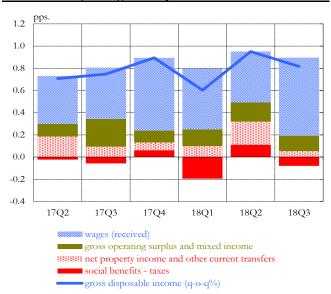
EA

0.5

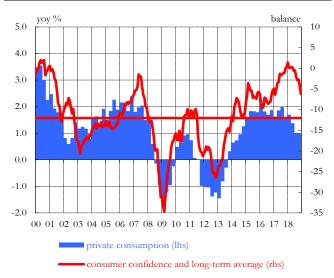
2.8



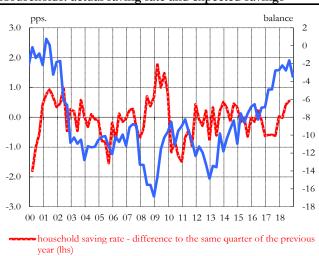
Household adjusted gross disposable income



Consumer confidence and private consumption



Households: actual saving rate and expected savings



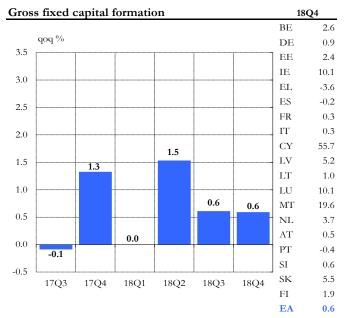
expected savings (over next 12 months) (rhs)







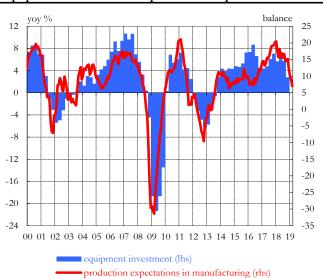
3. INVESTMENT



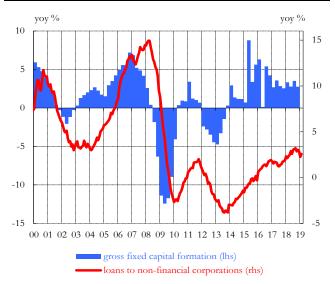
Equipment and construction investment



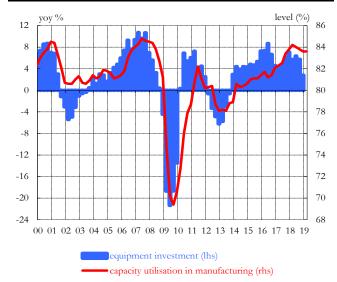
Equipment investment and production expectations



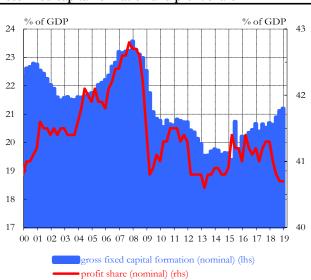
Gross fixed capital formation and corporate loans



Equipment investment and capacity utilisation



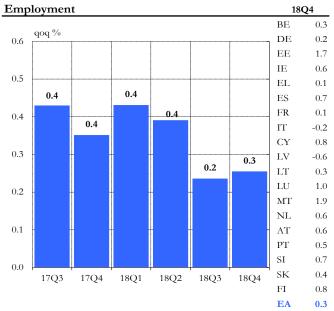
Gross fixed capital formation and profit share

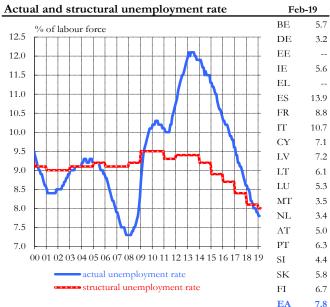




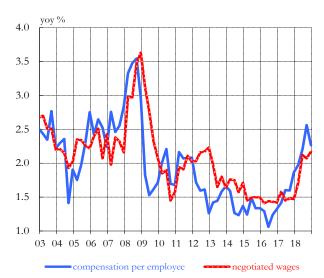


4. LABOUR MARKET

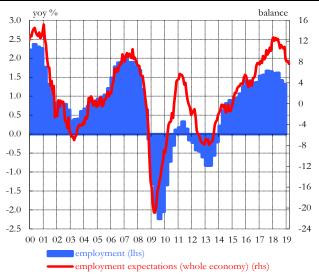




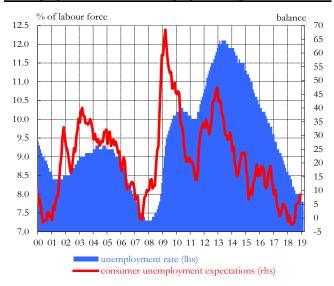
Compensation per head and negotiated wages (nominal)



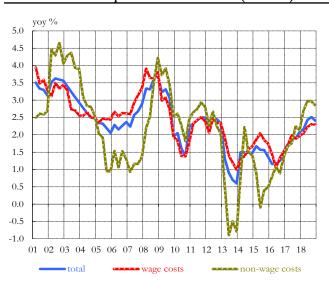
Employment and employment expectations



Unemployment rate and unemployment expectations



Labour costs in the private business sector (nominal)



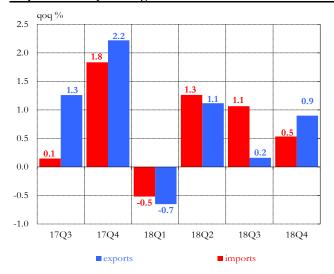




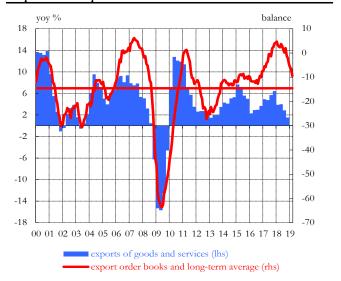


5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS

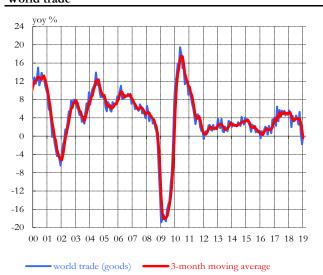
Exports and imports of goods and services



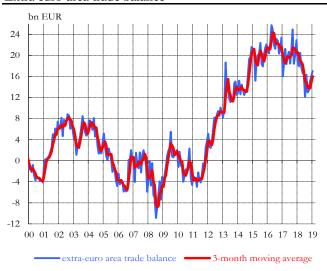
Exports and export order books



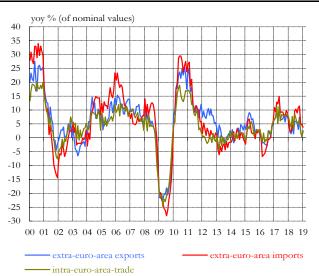
World trade



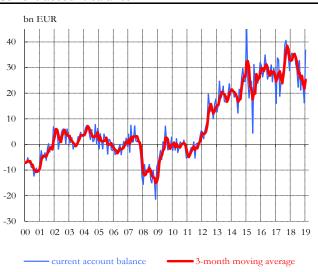
Extra euro-area trade balance



Extra- and intra-euro-area trade



Current-account balance

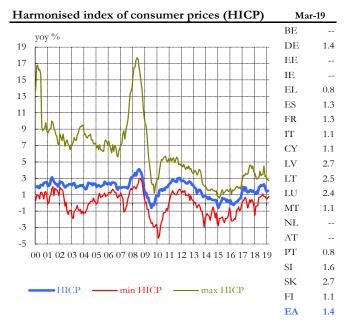






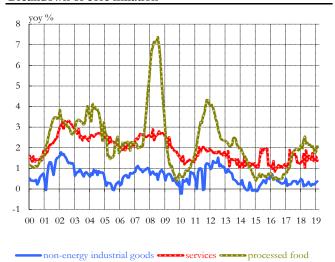


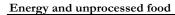
6. PRICES

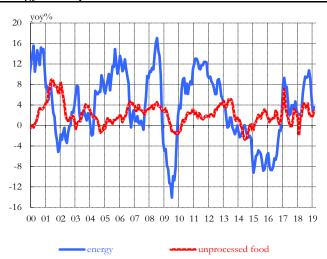


HICP headline and core inflation Feb-19 ΒE 4.5 DE 1.6 EE 1.6 4.0 ΙE 0.7 3.5 EL0.5 3.0 0.7 ES 2.5 1.2 2.0 0.2 1.5 1.0 0.5 LU 1.8 0.0 МТ 1.0 -0.5 NL 1.9 AΤ 1.3 РΤ $00\ 01\ 02\ 03\ 04\ 05\ 06\ 07\ 08\ 09\ 10\ 11\ 12\ 13\ 14\ 15\ 16\ 17\ 18\ 19$ 1.0 1.5 -HICP SK 1.9 $_{\mathrm{FI}}$ 1.0 Core inflation (all items excl. energy and unproc. food) EA 1.2

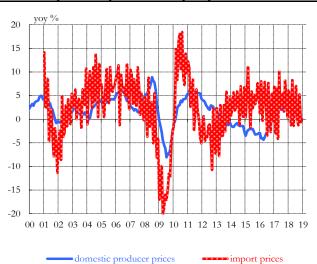
Breakdown of core inflation







Domestic producer prices and import prices



Oil prices





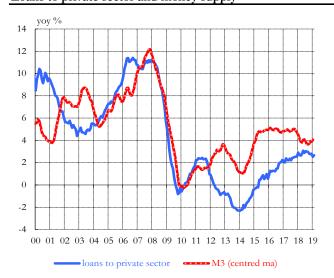


7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Nominal interest rates



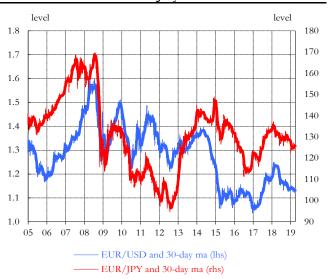
Loans to private sector and money supply



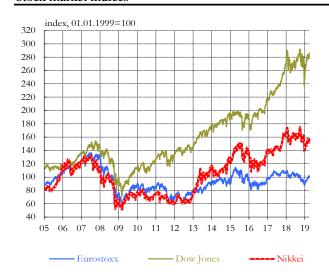
Real interest rates



Euro vis-à-vis US dollar and JP yen



Stock market indices



Nominal effective exchange rates

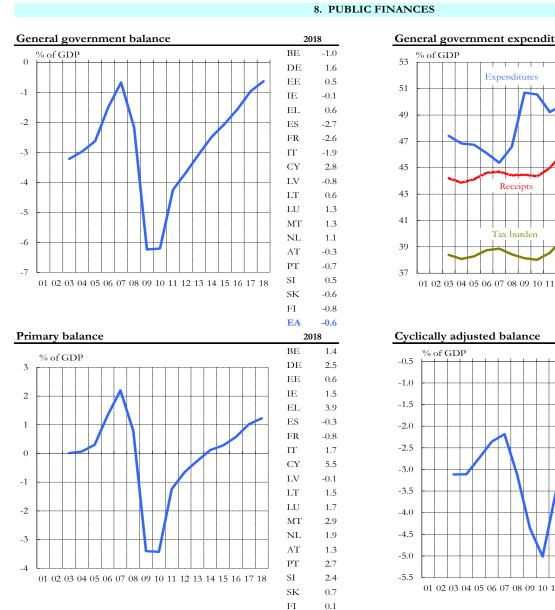


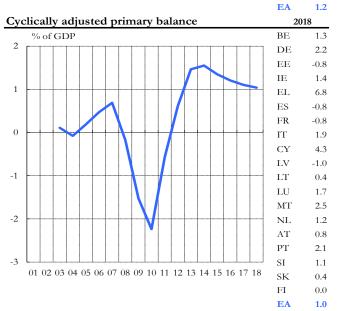






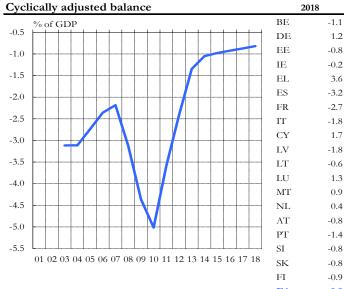
tax burden

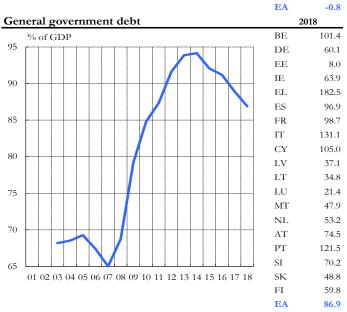




^{*} Figures are from the Commission's autumn 2018 forecast











Euro area	Indicators as from 2011 refer to Belgium (BE), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Irelan Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuani Luxembourg (LU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Portugal (PT), S (SI), Slovakia (SK) and Finland (FI).					
Indicator	Note	Source				
	1. Output					
Sentiment Indicator	The economic sentiment indicator is the weighted average (of the industrial confidence indicator (40%), the services confidence indicator (30%), the consumer confidence indicator (20%), the construction confidence indicator (5%) and the retail trade confidence indicator (5%)). Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG ECFIN				
Industrial confidence indicator	The industrial confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the balances (%) referring to the questions on production expectations, order books and stocks (the latter with inverted sign) from the survey of manufacturing industry. The long-term average refers to the period as from publishing of the indicator up to now. Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG ECFIN				
Services confidence indicator	The services confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the balances (%) referring to the questions on business situation and recent and expected evolution of demand from the survey of services. The long-term average refers to the period as from publishing of the indicator up to now. Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG ECFIN				
Industrial production	Monthly Industry Production Index (2015=100), NACE Rev.2, Total industry (excluding construction). Mom% and qoq% ch. are seasonally and working day adjusted, yoy% ch. are calendar adjusted.	Eurostat				
Gross domestic product	Real gross domestic product at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes (2010), ESA 2010), EUR. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Eurostat				
Labour productivity	Labour productivity defined as the difference between GDP growth and employment growth.	Eurostat				
GDP divergence	Standard deviation of GDP growth rates of the euro-area Member States.	Eurostat				
	2. Private consumption					
Consumer confidence indicator	The consumer confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the balances (%) referring to the questions on the financial situation of households, general economic situation, unemployment expectations (with inverted sign) and savings; all over next 12 months. The long-term average refers to the period as from publishing of the indicator up to now. Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG ECFIN				
Retail confidence indicator	The retail confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the balances (%) referring to the questions on the present and the future business situation and the volume of stocks (with inverted sign). The long-term average refers to the period from publishing of the indicator up to now. Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG ECFIN				
Private consumption	Real household & NPISH final consumption expenditure at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes (2010), ESA 2010), EUR. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Eurostat				
Retail sales	Retail trade (NACE Rev.2 G47) excluding motor vehicles, motorcycles; Deflated turnover, mom% ch. and qoq% ch. are seasonally adjusted, yoy% ch. are calendar adjusted.	Eurostat				
	3. Investment					
Capacity utilisation	In percent of full capacity in the manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally adjusted (collected in January, April, July and October).	DG ECFIN				
Production expectations	Production expectations in manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG ECFIN				
Gross fixed capital formation	Real gross fixed capital formation at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes (2010), ESA 2010), EUR. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Eurostat				
Equipment investment	Gross fixed capital formation at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year (2010), ESA 2010), EUR, real machinery and equipment and weapons systems. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Eurostat				
Construction investment	Gross fixed capital formation at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year (2010), ESA 2010), EUR, dwellings and other buildings and structures. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Eurostat				
Change in stocks	Changes in inventories and acquisitions less disposals of valuables (at prices of previous year).	Eurostat				
Profit share	Ratio of nominal gross operating surplus and gross mixed income to nominal GDP	Eurostat				



	4. Labour market	
Employment expectations	Managers' employment expectations over the next three months in the manufacturing	DG
(manufacturing)	sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.	ECFIN
Employment expectations	Managers' employment expectations over the next three months in the services sector.	DG
(services)	Data are seasonally adjusted.	ECFIN
Employment expectations	Weighted average of managers' employment expectations over the next three months in	DG
(whole economy)	the manufacturing (19%), services (65%), construction (6%) and retail sectors (10%).	ECFIN
	Weights in brackets according to value-added share on GDP of the respective sector.	
	Data are seasonally adjusted.	
Employment	Total domestic employment (number of persons). Data are seasonally adjusted for	Eurostat
	Ireland, Greece, France, Cyprus, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal and Slovakia, and seasonally and calendar adjusted data for the remaining Member States.	
Composition of		DG
Compensation of	Nominal compensation of employees divided by the number of employees. Data are seasonally and calendar-day adjusted.	ECFIN
employees per head	Consumers' unemployment expectations over the next twelve months. Data are	DG
Unemployment expectations	seasonally adjusted.	ECFIN
Unemployment rate	Harmonised unemployment rate (in percent of labour force), ILO definition. Data are	Eurostat
onemployment rate	seasonally adjusted.	Eurostat
Structural unemployment	Non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment. Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG
rate	Non-accelerating infration rate of unemployment. Data are seasonally adjusted.	ECFIN
Total labour costs	Nominal wage- and non-wage costs less subsidies in the private business sector. Data	Eurostat
Total labour costs	are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Larostat
Wage costs	Nominal wage and salary costs include direct remuneration, bonuses, and allowances,	Eurostat
wage costs	payments to employees saving schemes, payments for days not worked and	Larostat
	remuneration in kind. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	
Non-wage costs	Nominal non-wage costs include the employers' social contributions plus employment	Eurostat
	taxes less subsidies. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	
Labour productivity	Ratio between GDP and employment. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	DG
,	, , ,	ECFIN
	5. International transactions	
World trade	Volume, 2010=100, seasonally adjusted	CPB
Export order books	Managers' export order expectations in the manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally	DG
•	adjusted.	ECFIN
Extra-euro area exports	Nominal extra-euro area exports of goods, fob. Data are seasonally adjusted.	Eurostat
Extra-euro area imports	Nominal extra-euro area imports of goods, cif. Data are seasonally adjusted.	Eurostat
Extra-euro area trade	Difference between extra-euro area exports and extra-euro area imports. Data are	Eurostat
balance	seasonally adjusted.	Luiostat
Intra-euro area trade	Nominal intra-euro area trade in goods, fob. Data are seasonally adjusted.	Eurostat
Current-account balance	Transactions in goods and services plus income and current transfers between residents and non- residents of the euro area. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	ECB
Exports of goods and	Exports of goods and services at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes,	Eurostat
Exports of goods and services	reference year 2010), EUR. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Eurostat
	Imports of goods and services at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes,	Eurostat
Imports of goods and services	reference year 2010), EUR. Data are seasonally and calendar adjusted.	Eurostat
Direct investment	Nominal transactions/positions in assets abroad by euro-area residents less nominal	ECB
Direct investment	transactions/positions in euro-area assets by non-residents. To be regarded as a direct	ட்டு
	investment, ownership in an enterprise must be equivalent to more than 10% of the	
	ordinary shares or voting power.	
Portfolio investment		ECB
Portfolio investment	Nominal transactions/positions in securities (including equifies) abroad by euro-area l	
Portfolio investment	Nominal transactions/positions in securities (including equities) abroad by euro-area residents less nominal transactions/positions in euro-area securities (including equities)	202
Portfolio investment	residents less nominal transactions/positions in securities (including equities) by non-residents. To be regarded as a portfolio investment, ownership in an enterprise	101



	6. Prices	
HICP	Harmonised index of consumer prices (index 2015=100)	Eurostat
Core HICP	HICP excluding energy and unprocessed food (index 2015=100)	Eurostat
Producer prices	Domestic producer price index, total industry excluding construction (index 2015=100)	Eurostat
Selling price expectation	Managers' selling-price expectations in the manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.	DG ECFIN
Import prices	Import price index, manufacturing (index 2015=100)	Eurosta
Oil prices	Price of north sea Brent in USD/barrel and EUR/barrel	ICE
Non-energy commodity prices	Market price for non-fuel commodities in EUR terms (index 2015=100)	HWWI
	7. Monetary and financial indicators	
Nominal interest rate (3-month)	3-month EURIBOR interbank rate (360 days)	ECB/ Macrobo nd
Nominal interest rate (10-year)	10-year interest rate on government bonds for euro area (based upon the 10-year German government bond)	ECB/ Macrobo
ECB repo rate	Minimum bid rate of main refinancing operations, end of period.	ECB/ Macrobend
Money demand (M3)	Monetary aggregate including currency in circulation (banknotes and coins), operational deposits in central bank, money in current accounts, saving accounts, money market deposits, certificates of deposit, all other deposits and repurchase agreements. Data are seasonally adjusted.	ECB
Loans to private sector	Loans by MFI (monetary and financial institutions) to euro area residents (excl government). Data are seasonally adjusted.	ECB
Real long-term interest rates	Nominal interest rate (10-year) deflated by HICP index	DG ECFIN
Real short-term interest rates	Nominal interest rate (3-month) deflated by HICP index	DG ECFIN
Stock markets	Eurostoxx50, Dow Jones and Nikkei indices (1.1.1999=100)	Macrob nd
Exchange rates	EUR/USD and EUR/JPY reference rates	ECB
Nominal effective exchange rate	Graph – Monthly Nominal Effective Exch. Rates vs. rest of IC37 (index 2005 = 100)	DG ECFIN
	Table - ECB Nominal effective exch. rate, based on weighted averages of bilateral euro exchange rates (EA19) against the currencies of the EER-18 group.	ECB
	8. Public finance	
General government balance	Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of general government	DG ECFIN
Primary government balance	Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of general government minus interest payment	DG ECFIN
Cyclically adjusted balance	Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of general government corrected for the influence of the business cycle	DG ECFIN
Cyclically adjusted primary balance	Primary government balance corrected for the influence of the business cycle	DG ECFIN
General government expenditures and receipts	Nominal expenditures and receipts; tax burden includes taxes on production and imports (incl. taxed paid to EU), current taxes on income and wealth (direct taxes) and actual social contributions	DG ECFIN
General government debt	Cumulative sum of net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) positions of general government	DG ECFIN