

Note to Tables 5.2

Chapter 5 – prices, output, demand and labour markets

Section 5.2 – output and demand

Table 5.2.1 GDP and expenditure components and Table 5.2.2 value added by economic activity

From the beginning of September 2014, Member States' national accounts are compiled according to the harmonised accounting definitions and methodology adopted in the ESA 2010 Regulation, which also includes a set of tables specifying which data should be provided, and the timetable for this. On the basis of the available quarterly and annual information in the Member States, the European Commission (Eurostat) estimates euro area national account aggregates.

For each quarter, Eurostat publishes two GDP flash estimates, a subsequent full release of quarterly national accounts (QNA) followed by a final database update. The preliminary¹ flash estimate for euro area quarterly GDP growth (seasonally and working day-adjusted and at previous year's prices) is published about 30 days after the end of the reference quarter. It is based on national contributions some of which are published (Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania and Spain) while others are provided on a confidential basis to Eurostat only for the compilation of the euro area GDP growth. A more complete and incorporating publically available data GDP flash estimate, or the first release, is subsequently published within 45 days of the end of the reference quarter. It is usually based on estimates provided by most of the euro area countries (Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia and Finland), together with estimates for missing countries. The second or full release is published around 68 days after the end of the reference quarter (the legal requirement for data reporting by the Member States is 60 days after the end of the reference quarter). It includes GDP by main production, expenditure and income components. In addition, it also contains the goods and services breakdown for exports and imports and the product (asset) breakdown for gross fixed capital formation. Finally, Eurostat publishes a third GDP release at around t+100 days, which is a database update, i.e. no press release is published.² The second and third GDP releases comprise of data at current prices, previous year's prices and chain-linked volumes.

Data are available as unadjusted, seasonally adjusted and seasonally and working-day adjusted. Some national data are however only seasonally adjusted,

¹ The preliminary GDP flash estimate was introduced by Eurostat on 29 April 2016 after the positive outcome of two-year test estimations and a dedicated Task Force group. More information is available at Eurostat's website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/national-accounts/methodology/european-accounts/estimation-european-main-aggregates>).

² The third quarterly release at t+100 days after the end of the reference period was reintroduced in April 2017, after being previously discontinued in September 2014. It has a 100% country coverage and full detail breakdown, incorporating revisions or new national data published after the second GDP release.

whereas most data are both seasonally and working-day adjusted. Consequently, seasonally adjusted quarterly euro area aggregates are a mix of seasonally adjusted data, both in terms of the working-day correction and the seasonal adjustment methods used.

The series are expressed in euro (ECU up to end-1998). However, given that the composition of the ECU does not coincide with the former currencies of the countries which have adopted the single currency, pre-1999 amounts converted from the participating currencies into ECU at current ECU exchange rates are affected by movements in the currencies of EU Member States which have not adopted the euro. The backdata for Table 5.2.1 are therefore not appropriate as a means of deriving implicit deflators for periods before 1999 (see Table 5.1.5 for the ECB calculations of implicit deflators).

Data on exports and imports of goods and services include cross-border trade in the euro area. Moreover, euro area exports, imports and the trade balance are affected by asymmetries in the recording of external trade in the European Union. Private consumption in the euro area covers the final consumption of households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs) residing in the euro area. This final consumption may take place inside or outside the euro area. Changes in inventories include acquisitions and disposals of valuables.

Gross value added data are broken down into 10 main aggregates (A*10) of activity. Total value added plus the balance of taxes less subsidies on products results in GDP at market prices.

Eurostat's estimation procedure ensures consistency between total GDP and its components. However, while euro area GDP in current prices is the sum of the respective GDP components, this is not the case for euro area GDP volumes. Due to the use of annually chain linked volume measures, both the results for euro area volumes using the year 2015 as a reference year³, as well as for growth rates there may be differences between aggregates and components for years other than the years 2015 and 2016.

All data shown in Tables 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 are available in CSV files that can be downloaded from the "Statistics" section of this website (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/prices/accounts/html/index.en.html>). More detailed data and national results are available from Eurostat's database. A small sub- set of the data can also be obtained from Eurostat's website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/national-accounts/data/main-tables>) which also provides further information on data and data sources.

Relevant methodological information about the transition from ESA 95 to ESA 2010 is available at the Eurostat's website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/esa-2010> and http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/c/portal/layout?p_l_id=737991&p_v_l_s_g_id=0).

³ As of October 2019, a common reference year, i.e. year 2015, for the European aggregates and EU countries is applied. The previous reference year was 2010.

References

[Regulation \(EU\) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013](#) on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union, Official Journal of the European Union, L174/1, 26 June 2013, p. 1.

Table 5.2.3 industrial production

Industrial production in the euro area is calculated and published by the European Commission (Eurostat). As a general rule, Eurostat compiles euro area aggregates if at least 60% of the weight for a given variable and a given activity is available. Any country data that are unavailable at the current end of the series are replaced by forecasts. All national results are adjusted for variations in the number of working days and seasonally adjusted. These series are aggregated by Eurostat to compile the euro area index (indirect approach).

The index of production measures changes in the volume of the gross value added that is generated by industry. It is covered by the EU Council Regulation concerning short-term statistics and related implementing regulations.

Monthly euro area statistics on production in *industry including construction* (column 1) are based on results for twelve euro area countries; monthly euro area statistics on production in *construction* (column 12) exclude Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta.

Monthly euro area statistics on production in *industry excluding construction* are available from all euro area countries. The euro area aggregates are weighted arithmetic averages of national indices. Country weights are derived from value added at factor cost in 2010.

The data shown in the ECB's Statistics Bulletin follow the international classification NACE Rev. 2. Both the *Main Industrial Groupings* (columns 6 to 11, excluding 8) and the corresponding totals (columns 5 and 8) are compiled from detailed results for NACE Rev. 2 divisions and groups. The series for *total industry excluding construction and energy* differs in terms of coverage of activities from the series for *manufacturing*, as it excludes the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products, but does include non-energy mining and quarrying activities.

For *industry excluding construction*, Eurostat publishes results for the euro area at around 42 days after the end of the reporting month. Monthly results for the *construction* sector are available approximately 48 days after the reference period.

All data shown in Table 5.2.3 are available in CSV files that can be downloaded from the "Statistics" section of this website

(<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/prices/accounts/html/index.en.html>). More detailed data and national results are available from Eurostat's data bank available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>; further information on data and data sources is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/short-term-business-statistics/overview/sts-in-brief>

References

[Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1165/98 of 19 May 1998](#) concerning short-term statistics, Official Journal of the European Communities, L 162, 5 June 1998, pp. 1-15.

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 586/2001 of 26 March 2001](#) on implementing

Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics as regards the definition of Main Industrial Groupings (MIGS), Official Journal of the European Communities, L 86, 27 March 2001, pp. 11-14.

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 588/2001 of 26 March 2001](#) implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics as regards the definition of variables, Official Journal of the European Communities, L 86, 27 March 2001, pp. 18-28.

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 472/2008 of 29 May 2008](#) implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics as regards the first base year to be applied for time series in NACE Revision 2 and, for time series prior to 2009 to be transmitted according to NACE Revision 2, the level of detail, the form, the first reference period, and the reference period

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1178/2008 of 28 November 2008](#) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics and Commission Regulations (EC) No 1503/2006 and (EC) No 657/2007 as regards adaptations following the revision of statistical classifications NACE and CPA

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 329/2009 of 22 April 2009](#) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics as regards the updating of the list of variables, the frequency of compilation of the statistics and the levels of breakdown and aggregation to be applied to the variables

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 461/2012 of 31 May 2012](#) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics and Commission Regulations (EC) No 1503/2006, (EC) No 657/2007 and (EC) No 1178/2008 as regards adaptations related to the removal of the industrial new orders variables

Table 5.2.4 industrial new orders and turnover, retail sales and passenger car registrations

ECB indicator on euro area industrial new orders

The industrial new orders index measures changes in the orders received from domestic and non-domestic customers by the manufacturing industries (NACE Rev. 2 C) that tend to work on the basis of orders, namely textile (NACE 13 and 14), paper and paper products (17), chemical (20), pharmaceutical products (21), metal and capital good industries (24 to 30). Orders arriving in one reference period but cancelled in another are not subtracted; new order data are calculated on the basis of current prices. Eurostat discontinued the provision of industrial new orders statistics as of the reporting period of March 2012 and the ECB has developed a new monthly indicator on euro area industrial new orders, compiled from official national data and model-based estimates for those countries that no longer release new orders data. Historical values up to March 2012 are those released by Eurostat.⁴

Indices on industrial turnover cover turnover invoiced during the reference period, including all duties and taxes except VAT. Monthly results are available for all euro area countries.

Retail sales indices at constant prices measure the turnover of the retail trade industry in 2010 prices. Monthly statistics are available for all euro area countries. Eurostat publishes first estimates for the euro area approximately 33 days after the end of the reference period. Retail sales correspond to NACE Rev.2 Division 47, and exclude sales of motor vehicles and motorcycles as well as repairs of personal and household goods.

The EU Council Regulation concerning short-term statistics provides the legal framework for all of the indices listed above; all indices are calculated and published by the European Commission (Eurostat). Euro area series are computed as weighted averages of national series. National series are weighted by turnover in 2010. Euro area aggregates are calculated if there is at least 60% country coverage. Above this threshold, any country data that are unavailable at the current end of the series are replaced by forecasts. **New passenger car registrations** for the euro area are available in a timely fashion from the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA). The data cover registrations of all new cars, including passenger cars used for commercial purposes. The data are seasonally adjusted by the ECB using X-12- REGARIMA.

All data shown in Table 5.2.4 are available in CSV files that can be downloaded from the "Statistics" section of this website (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/prices/accounts/html/index.en.html>). More detailed data and national results are available from Eurostat's website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> which also provides further information on data and data sources.

⁴ For a comprehensive description of the modelling framework and the test results, see de Bondt, G. J., Dieden, H.C., Muzikarova, S. and Vincze, I., "Introducing the ECB indicator on euro area industrial new orders", ECB Occasional Paper, No 149, ECB, June 2013 at: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpops/ecbocp149.pdf>.

References

See references for Table 5.2.3.

Table 5.2.5 business and consumer surveys

The European Commission's Business and Consumer Surveys are carried out by national institutions on behalf of the European Commission. Harmonised questionnaires consisting of a set of mainly qualitative questions are in most cases addressed at a monthly frequency to around 75,000 firms and 26,000 consumers in the euro area.

Euro area aggregates are based on results for all euro area countries (excluding Luxembourg in the retail trade and services survey and Ireland for all surveys except the consumer survey), using appropriate weights from national accounts sources. Survey results are generally presented as percentage balances, i.e. the difference between the percentages of positive and negative responses, and are seasonally adjusted by the European Commission. In general, initial results are published by the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) on the penultimate working day of the reporting month.

The **economic sentiment indicator** is composed of the industrial, services, consumer, construction and retail trade confidence indicators; the industrial confidence indicator has a weight of 40%, the services confidence indicator a weight of 30%, the consumer confidence indicator a weight of 20% and the two other indicators a weight of 5% each. Values of the economic sentiment indicator above (below) 100 indicate above-average (below-average) economic sentiment, calculated for the period 1990 to 2014.

The **industrial confidence indicator in manufacturing** is the arithmetic average of the responses (percentage balances) to the questions on the assessment of the following categories: order books, stocks of finished products (with an inverted sign) and production expectations.

Data on **capacity utilisation in manufacturing and for services** are collected in January, April, July and October, and are expressed as percentages of full capacity.

The consumer confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the responses (percentage balances) to the questions on expected developments over the next 12 months in the financial situation of households, the general economic situation, unemployment and savings.

The **construction confidence indicator** is the arithmetic average of the responses (percentage balances) to the questions on the assessment of order books and on employment expectations.

The **retail trade confidence indicator** is the arithmetic average of the responses (percentage balances) to the questions on the present business situation, the assessment of stocks (with an inverted sign) and the expected business situation.

The **services confidence indicator** is the arithmetic average of the responses (percentage balances) to the questions on the assessment of the current business climate, the assessment of demand in recent months, and expected developments in demand in the months ahead.

Time series from the European Commission's Business and Consumer Surveys are also available at DG ECFIN's web site at: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/time_series/index_en.htm

References

"The joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys; User Guide, 2014" http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/documents/bcs_user_guide_en.pdf

"List of 'best practice' for the conduct of business and consumer surveys", 2014: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/documents/bcs_best_practice_en.pdf