

Flash estimate for the fourth quarter of 2015

GDP up by 0.3% in both euro area and EU28

+1.5% and +1.8% respectively compared with the fourth quarter of 2014

Pre-announcement: improved timeliness of GDP estimates

As of 29 April 2016, Eurostat will start publishing a preliminary GDP flash estimate around 30 days after the end of the reference quarter. The accompanying news release will show the seasonally and calendar adjusted quarterly GDP volume growth rates for the euro area and the European Union. This preliminary GDP flash estimate will be followed by the current GDP flash estimate, which will continue to be published about 45 days after the end of the reference quarter, including the Member States' data.

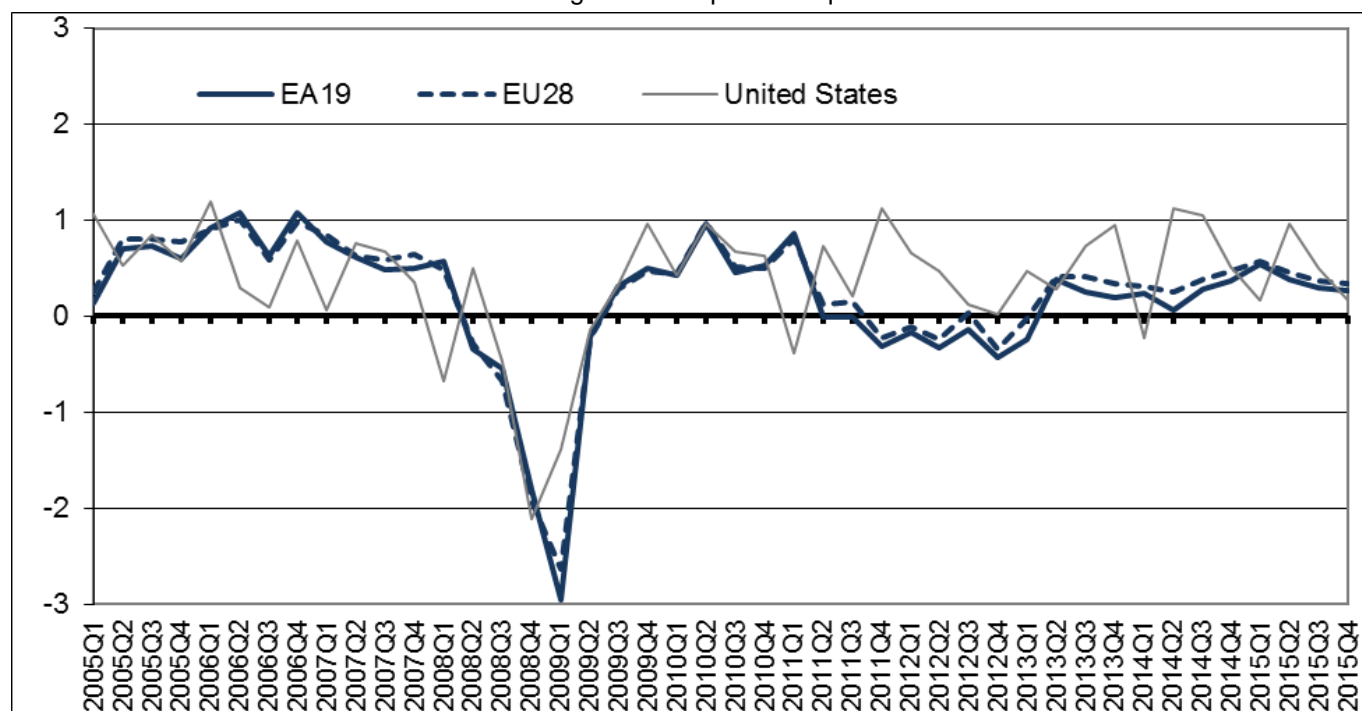
Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.3% in both the **euro area** (EA19) and the **EU28** during the fourth quarter of 2015, compared with the previous quarter, according to a flash estimate published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In the third quarter of 2015, GDP grew by 0.3% and 0.4% respectively.

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 1.5% in the **euro area** and by 1.8% in the **EU28** in the fourth quarter of 2015, after +1.6% and +1.9% respectively in the previous quarter.

During the fourth quarter of 2015, GDP in the **United States** increased by 0.2% compared with the previous quarter (after +0.5% in the third quarter of 2015). Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, GDP grew by 1.8% (after +2.1% in the previous quarter).

Over the whole year 2015, GDP rose by 1.5% in the **euro area** and by 1.8% in the **EU28**.

EU28, euro area and United States GDP growth rates
% change over the previous quarter



Growth rates of GDP in volume
(based on seasonally adjusted* data)

	Percentage change compared with the previous quarter				Percentage change compared with the same quarter of the previous year			
	2015				2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EA19	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.5
EU28	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8
Member States								
Belgium	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3
Bulgaria	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.8	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.1
Czech Republic	2.5	1.0	0.5	:	4.1	4.6	4.5	:
Denmark	0.6	0.2	-0.4	:	1.5	1.7	0.5	:
Germany	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.3
Estonia	-0.8	0.6	-0.4	1.2	1.4	1.8	0.7	0.9
Ireland	2.2	1.9	1.4	:	6.8	7.5	6.8	:
Greece	-0.1	0.2	-1.4	-0.6	0.3	0.8	-1.9	-1.9
Spain	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	2.7	3.2	3.4	3.5
France	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.3
Croatia	0.3	1.0	1.3	:	0.2	1.5	2.7	:
Italy	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.8	1.0
Cyprus	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.1	2.3	2.7
Latvia	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.0	1.9	2.7	3.2	2.6
Lithuania	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.4	1.8	2.1
Luxembourg	-0.2	1.4	0.9	:	5.5	6.2	5.4	:
Hungary	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.0	3.3	2.7	2.6	3.0
Malta	0.7	1.4	1.1	:	5.0	5.5	5.6	:
Netherlands**	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.2
Austria	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.9	1.1
Poland	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.1	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.6
Portugal	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.2	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.2
Romania	1.3	-0.2	1.5	1.1	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.8
Slovenia	0.7	0.7	0.4	:	3.0	2.6	2.1	:
Slovakia	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.1	3.4	3.8	4.0
Finland	0.1	0.4	-0.6	-0.1	0.0	0.5	-0.3	-0.2
Sweden	0.8	1.0	0.8	:	3.1	3.4	3.9	:
United Kingdom	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9
Other countries								
Iceland	0.1	3.7	0.7	:	3.1	6.7	1.9	:
Norway	0.2	0.0	1.8	:	2.5	1.4	3.1	:
Switzerland	-0.3	0.2	0.0	:	1.1	1.2	0.6	:
United States	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.2	2.9	2.7	2.1	1.8

: Data not available.

* The seasonal adjustment does not include a calendar adjustment for Ireland, Slovakia and Iceland.

** Percentage change compared with the same quarter of the previous year calculated from calendar adjusted data.

Geographical information

The **euro area (EA19)** includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union (EU28)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

European quarterly national accounts are compiled in accordance with the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010).

The flash estimate of the fourth quarter of 2015 GDP growth presented in this release is based on Member States' data as available, covering 97% of EA19 GDP (93% of EU28 GDP).

Revisions and timetable

With the flash estimate, euro area and EU GDP figures for earlier quarters are not revised.

All figures presented in this release may be revised with the GDP and main aggregates estimate scheduled for 8 March 2016.

Data on previous revisions showing that the flash estimation procedure is reliable are available on the Eurostat website [here](#).

For more information

[More details](#) of the flash methodology.

Eurostat's [website section](#) on national accounts, and specifically the [page](#) on quarterly national accounts

Eurostat's [database section](#) on national accounts

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on measuring quarterly GDP

Eurostat's [metadata](#) on quarterly national accounts

[European System of Accounts 2010](#)


Eurostat's €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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