



 This update:
 05-Dec-13 (2)

 Next update:
 23-Jan-14

DG ECFIN - Directorate A - Policy strategy and co-ordination

| 1. Output Economic Sentiment Industrial confidence Services confidence Industrial production (excluding construction) Gross domestic product  Labour productivity 2. Private consumption Consumer confidence Retail confidence | indicator balance balance % ch. on prev. period % ch. on prev. year % ch. on prev. year | 100.7<br>-6.1<br>9.0 | 101.8<br>0.3<br>5.3 | 90.4         | 86.8<br>-15.4 | 90.1         | 89.8<br>-12.6 | 94.9       | 92.5<br>-10.6 | 95.3<br>-7.8 | 96.9  | 97.7<br>-5.0 | 98.5             |       |
|--|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-------|--------------|------------------|-------|
| Industrial confidence Services confidence Industrial production (excluding construction) Gross domestic product  Labour productivity  2. Private consumption Consumer confidence   | balance<br>balance<br>% ch. on prev. period<br>% ch. on prev. year                      | -6.1                 | 0.3                 | -11.7        |               |              |               |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Services confidence Industrial production (excluding construction) Gross domestic product  Labour productivity  2. Private consumption Consumer confidence   | balance<br>% ch. on prev. period<br>% ch. on prev. year                                 |                      |                     |              |               |              |               |            |               | -/.0         | -6.6  | -5.0         | -3.9             |       |
| Industrial production (excluding construction)  Gross domestic product  Labour productivity  2. Private consumption Consumer confidence  | % ch. on prev. period<br>% ch. on prev. year  |                      |                     | -6.9         | -11.1         | -7.8         | -10.0         | -5.4       | -7.8          | -5.2         | -3.2  | -3.7         | -0.8             |       |
| (excluding construction)  Gross domestic product  Labour productivity  2. Private consumption  Consumer confidence   | % ch. on prev. year   |                      |                     |              | -2.0          | 0.3          | 1.0           | -0.2       | -1.0          | 1.0          | -0.4  |              |                  |       |
| Gross domestic product  Labour productivity  2. Private consumption  Consumer confidence   |   | 0.9                  | 3.2                 | -2.4         | -3.1          | -2.3         | -0.7          | -0.6       | -1.8          | -1.1         | 1.0   |              |                  |       |
| Labour productivity  2. Private consumption Consumer confidence  |   |                      |                     |              | -0.5          | -0.2         | 0.3           | 0.1        |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| 2. Private consumption Consumer confidence   | % ch. on prev. year   | 1.6                  | 1.7                 | -0.7         | -1.0          | -1.2         | -0.6          | -0.4       |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| 2. Private consumption Consumer confidence   | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -0.2          | 0.2          | 0.4           |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Consumer confidence  | % ch. on prev. year   | 0.3                  | 1.1                 | 0.0          | -0.3          | -0.1         | 0.5           |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
|  |   |                      |                     |              |               |              |               |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Retail confidence  | balance   | -12.5                | -14.5               | -22.3        | -26.2         | -23.7        | -20.9         | -16.0      | -17.4         | -15.6        | -14.9 | -14.5        | -15.4            |       |
|  | balance   | -8.9                 | -5.4                | -15.2        | -16.0         | -16.2        | -16.6         | -10.5      | -14.0         | -10.6        | -6.9  | -7.8         | -7.7             |       |
| Private consumption  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -0.5          | -0.1         | 0.1           | 0.1        |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| 1 iivate consumption   | % ch. on prev. year   | 1.4                  | 0.4                 | -1.4         | -1.5          | -1.2         | -0.6          | -0.4       |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Retail sales   | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -1.2          | 0.2          | 0.2           | 0.4        | 0.4           | 0.6          | -0.6  | -0.3         |                  |       |
| retail sales   | % ch. on prev. year   | 0.8                  | -0.3                | -1.7         | -2.6          | -2.0         | -0.8          | -0.2       | -0.7          | -0.1         | 0.3   | -0.1         |                  |       |
| 3. Investment  |   |                      |                     |              |               |              |               |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Capacity utilisation   | level (%)   | 81.3                 | 80.7                | 78.9         | 77.2          | 77.6         | 77.5          | 78.3       | 78.3          |              |       | 78.4         |                  |       |
| Production expectations (manuf.)   | balance   | 6.1                  | 9.4                 | -4.0         | -7.4          | -1.6         | -0.9          | 4.4        | 1.5           | 4.6          | 7.0   | 9.4          | 9.8              |       |
| Gross fixed capital formation  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -1.2          | -1.9         | 0.2           | 0.4        |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| 1  | % ch. on prev. year   | 1.1                  | 1.7                 | -4.0         | -4.8          | -5.6         | -3.5          | -2.5       |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| - equipment investment   | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -1.2          | -2.7         | 0.6           |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
|  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 4.7                 | -4.4         | -5.4          | -6.8         | -4.0          |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| - construction investment  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -1.3          | -2.4         | 0.0           |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
|  | % ch. on prev. year   | 0.0                  | -0.2                | -4.3         | -4.8          | -5.7         | -4.0          |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Change in stocks   | contrib. to GDP (pp.)   | 0.0                  | 0.5                 | -0.4         | -0.2          | 0.1          | -0.1          | 0.3        |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| 4. Labour market   | 3 7   | 44.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.1          | 40.7          | 44.4         | 40.0          | 0 :        | 40.4          |              | 0.0   |              |                  |       |
| Employment expectations (manuf.)   | balance<br>balance  | -11.0                | 2.9                 | -8.6         | -12.7         | -11.1        | -12.2         | -9.4       | -10.4         | -9.7         | -8.2  | -7.3         | -6.3<br>-1.1     |       |
| Employment expectations (services)   | balance   | 4.3                  | 5.4                 | -2.4         | -5.1          | -4.9         | -5.6          | -4.1       | -5.4          | -3.7         | -3.1  | -3.2         | -1.1             |       |
| Employment   | % ch. on prev. period   | 0.9                  | 0.6                 | 0.7          | -0.3<br>-0.8  | -0.4         | -0.1<br>-1.0  |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| E1   | % ch. on prev. year   | 0.9                  | 942                 | -0.7<br>-957 |               | -1.0<br>-637 | -100          |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Employment (000)  Compensation of employees per head   | abs. ch. on prev. period  |                      | 942                 | -95/         | -468<br>0.2   | 0.8          | 0.2           |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| (nominal)  | % ch. on prev. period<br>% ch. on prev. year  | 2.0                  | 1.9                 | 1.9          | 1.5           | 1.7          | 1.5           |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Unemployment expectations  | balance   | 26.8                 | 23.2                | 38.4         | 46.3          | 42.6         | 35.9          | 29.8       | 30.4          | 30.4         | 28.6  | 29.3         | 31.4             |       |
| Unemployment rate  | % of lab. force   | 20.0                 | 10.2                | 11.4         | 11.8          | 12.0         | 12.1          | 12.1       | 12.1          | 12.1         | 12.2  | 12.1         | J1. <del>1</del> |       |
| Unemployment (000)   | abs. ch. on prev. period  |                      | 218                 | 2,028        | 458           | 332          | 106           | 95         | 19            | 59           | 41    | -61          |                  |       |
| 5. International transactions  | aos. es. on prev. perioa  |                      | 210                 | 2,020        | 150           | 332          | 100           | 75         | 17            | 37           | - 11  | - 01         |                  |       |
|  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | 0.8           | 0.9          | 0.3           | 1.1        | 2.1           | -0.9         | 0.8   |              |                  |       |
| World trade  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 6.2                 | 1.9          | 1.6           | 1.9          | 1.7           | 3.1        | 3.6           | 2.7          | 3.0   |              |                  |       |
| Export order books   | balance   | -18.7                | -5.7                | -21.2        | -27.9         | -26.0        | -25.6         | -21.5      | -23.9         | -21.3        | -19.3 | -18.2        | -14.3            |       |
| Trade balance (merchandise)  | billion EUR   |                      | -13.3               | 89.6         | 29.3          | 38.0         | 40.8          | 37.4       | 10.8          | 12.3         | 14.3  |              |                  | _     |
| E ( f 1 1 :  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -0.5          | -1.0         | 2.1           | 0.2        |               |              | -     |              |                  | -     |
| Exports of goods and services  | % ch. on prev. year   | 5.1                  | 6.8                 | 2.5          | 1.9           | 0.1          | 1.3           | 0.8        |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| I  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | -0.9          | -1.2         | 1.6           | 1.0        |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Imports of goods and services  | % ch. on prev. year   | 4.7                  | 4.7                 | -1.0         | -0.8          | -2.0         | -0.3          | 0.5        |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Current-account balance  | billion EUR   |                      | 6.0                 | 128.6        | 40.7          | 50.4         | 58.2          | 47.2       | 15.5          | 17.9         | 13.7  |              |                  |       |
| Direct investment  | billion EUR   |                      | -85.8               | -3.6         | -27.6         | -24.0        | -48.7         | -17.3      | -2.9          | -7.2         | -7.3  |              |                  |       |
| Portfolio investment   | billion EUR   |                      | 231.1               | 72.3         | 72.9          | 16.5         | 67.1          | -21.6      | -41.5         | 24.5         | -4.6  |              |                  |       |
| 6. Prices  |   |                      |                     |              |               |              |               |            |               |              |       |              |                  |       |
| Consumer inflation expectations  | balance   | 21.3                 | 25.9                | 25.0         | 25.6          | 19.9         | 15.8          | 15.7       | 15.3          | 17.0         | 14.9  | 16.7         | 14.0             |       |
| Headline inflation (HICP)  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 2.7                 | 2.4          | 2.2           | 1.9          | 1.4           | 1.3        | 1.6           | 1.3          | 1.1   | 0.7          | 0.9              |       |
| Core HICP  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 1.7                 | 1.8          | 1.6           | 1.5          | 1.3           | 1.3        | 1.3           | 1.3          | 1.2   | 1.0          |                  |       |
| Domestic producer prices   | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 5.7                 | 2.8          | 2.4           | 1.2          | -0.1          | -0.6       | 0.0           | -0.9         | -0.9  | -1.4         |                  |       |
| Import prices  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 10.2                | 5.1          | 3.5           | -0.9         | -2.0          | -3.9       | -2.4          | -4.6         |       |              |                  |       |
|  | level   |                      | 110.9               | 111.7        | 110.2         | 112.7        | 103.5         | 109.5      | 107.1         | 110.0        | 111.7 | 109.4        | 107.9            | 115.0 |
| Oil (Brent) in USD   | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     |              | 0.9           | 2.3          | -8.2          | 5.9        | 3.7           | 2.6          | 1.6   | -2.1         | -1.4             | 6.6   |
|  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 38.2                | 0.7          | 1.0           | -4.7         | -5.4          | 0.3        | 4.9           | -2.1         | -1.5  | -2.2         | -1.4             | 5.2   |
| 0.7.00   | level   |                      | 79.6                | 86.9         | 87.3          | 85.0         | 85.4          | 79.3       | 79.7          | 79.6         | 78.3  | 81.8         | 82.6             | 87.3  |
| Oil (Brent) in EUR   | % ch. on prev. period   |                      |                     | _            | 2.5           | -2.7         | 0.4           | -7.1       | -5.8          | -0.1         | -1.7  | 4.5          | 0.9              | 5.7   |
|  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 31.4                | 9.1          | 9.8           | 5.0          | -5.3          | -6.9       | -13.0         | -8.5         | 1.9   | -1.6         | -8.9             | -0.9  |
| Non-energy commodity prices (EUR)  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      | . =                 |              | -4.2          | 0.5          | -5.1          | -3.9       | -0.7          | -0.6         | -1.2  | -1.6         | 0.5              |       |
|  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 12.6                | -5.5         | 0.7           | -3.5         | -7.0          | -12.2      | -13.7         | -11.5        | -11.4 | -11.3        | -9.8             |       |
| 7. Monetary and financial indicators   | , ,   |                      | 4.00                | 0.57         | 0.20          | 0.01         | 0.24          | 0.22       | 0.22          | 0.00         | 0.22  | 0.22         | 0.00             | 0.00  |
| Nominal interest rates (3 month)   | level   |                      | 1.39                | 0.57         | 0.20          | 0.21         | 0.21          | 0.22       | 0.22          | 0.23         | 0.22  | 0.23         | 0.22             | 0.23  |
| Nominal interest rates (10 year)   | level   |                      | 2.65                | 1.56         | 1.46          | 1.51         | 1.36          | 1.70       | 1.50          | 1.74         | 1.90  | 1.80         | 1.72             | 1.95  |
| ECB repo rate  | level   |                      | 1.25                | 0.88         | 0.75          | 0.75         | 0.60          | 3.2        | 0.50          | 0.50         | 0.50  | 0.50         | 0.35             | 0.50  |
| Stock market (Eurostoxx)   | % ch. on prev. period   |                      | 6.1                 | 7/           |               | 5.2          | 0.7           |            |               | 4.4          | 2.2   | 4.3          |                  | -9.3  |
| Manay damand (M2)  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | -6.1                | -7.6         | 11.7          | 8.2          | 21.0          | 15.9       | 19.0          | 15.6         | 13.2  | 19.4         | 21.6             | 5.6   |
| Money demand (M3)  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 1.5                 | 3.0          | 3.7           | 3.0          | 0.0           | 2.2        | 2.2           | 2.3          | 2.0   | 1.4          |                  |       |
| Loans to households  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 1.6                 | 0.5          | 0.5           | 0.4          |               | 0.1        | 0.1           | 0.1          | 0.1   | 0.1          |                  |       |
| Loans to non-financial corporations  | % ch. on prev. year   |                      | 1.3                 | -2.3         | -2.3          | -2.4         | -3.3          | -3.6       | -3.7          | -3.8         | -3.6  | -3.7         | 1.25             | 1 22  |
| Rilatoral avaluation ELID /LICIN   | level   |                      | 1.39                | 1.28         | 1.30          | 1.32         | 1.31          | 1.32       | 1.31          | 1.33         | 1.33  | 1.36         | 1.35             | 1.32  |
| Bilateral exchange rate EUR/USD  | % ch. on prev. period   |                      | F 0                 | 7 7          | 3.7           | 1.8          | -1.1          | 1.4        | -0.8          | 1.8          | 0.3   | 2.2          | -1.0             | -2.4  |
|  | % ch. on prev. year<br>% ch. on prev. period  |                      | 5.0                 | -7.7         | -3.8          | 0.7          | 1.9           | 5.9<br>1.0 | 0.0           | 7.3          | -0.2  | 5.1<br>0.9   | 5.2<br>-0.2      | 0.4   |
|  |   |                      |                     |              | 2.1           | 2.9          | 0.1           | 1.0        |               |              | 11.7  |              |                  | -1.0  |

(1) LTA=Long-Term Average

(2) Data available until the date of update





# 1. Output

Real **GDP** in the euro area continued growing in the third quarter of 2013. According to Eurostat's second estimate released on 4 December, it increased by 0.1% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) as private consumption rose by 0.1%, government consumption was up by 0.2%, gross fixed capital formation increased by 0.4%, whereas exports and imports rose by 0.2% and 1.0% respectively. As compared to 2012-Q3, real GDP was 0.4% lower.

According to the **Commission's autumn 2013 forecast,** released on 5 November, euro-area real GDP is expected to contract by 0.4% in 2013 (y-o-y), and to increase by 1.1% and 1.7% in 2014 and 2015 respectively, on the back of strengthening domestic demand, benefitting from rebuilding confidence and real disposable income growth, as well as a more favourable external environment. Concerning Member States, growth differences are set to remain pronounced.

In November, the Commission's Economic Sentiment Indicator increased by 0.8 points (to 98.5), which marked the seventh consecutive improvement and resulted in the highest level since August 2011. The increase was driven by improved confidence in services and industry. By contrast, confidence weakened among consumers and in construction and remained broadly unchanged in retail trade. Industry confidence markedly increased (1.1 points), resulting from improvements in managers' assessment of the current level of overall order books and, to a lesser degree, in production expectations, while their assessment of the stocks of finished products remained broadly stable. Services confidence registered a strong increase (2.9 points), resulting from far better assessments of past demand and the past business situation. The PMI Composite Output **Index** stood in November at 51.7 (down from 51.9), signalling expansion of economic activity for the fifth consecutive month.

In September 2013, **industrial production** fell by 0.5% month-on-month (m-o-m) following a decrease of 1.0% in August. In September, production of durable consumer goods, capital goods, intermediate goods and non-durable consumer goods fell respectively by 2.6%, 1.0%, 0.8% and 0.2%, whereas production in energy increased by 1.3%.

# 2. Private consumption

In 2013-Q3, **private consumption** slightly increased by 0.1% q-o-q (0.2% in 2013Q2). With respect to the same period of the previous year, private consumption was down by 0.4% (-0.6% in 2013-Q2).

In November, **consumer confidence** declined (-0.9 points) putting a halt to the upward trend observed since December 2012. This was mainly due to a sharp decline registered in France, and reflected worsening

expectations about the future general economic situation, unemployment expectations and savings over the next 12 months.

In October 2013, the volume of **retail trade** fell by 0.2% m-o-m (from -0.6% in September). As compared to October 2012, retail trade volumes fell by 0.1%. In November, confidence in the retail sector remained broadly unchanged from October, resulting from an important improvement in managers' business expectations, which was offset by worsening views on the volume of stocks. Retailers' assessment of the present business situation remained virtually unchanged.

### 3. Investment

In 2013Q3, gross fixed capital formation increased by 0.4% q-o-q (0.2% in 2013-Q2). Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, investment was 2.5% lower. The rate of **capacity utilisation** slightly rose in the fourth quarter of 2013 (data collected in October) to 78.4%, but remained below its long-term average of 81.3% and as such do not indicate much price pressure.

### 4. Labour market

In October, the seasonally-adjusted **unemployment rate** was 12.1%, down from 12.2% in September, but 0.4 pp. higher than one year ago. Eurostat estimates that 19.298 million persons were unemployed in October, slightly less than in the preceding months, but more than in October 2012 (0.6 million). Significant differences persist across Member States with the lowest rates recorded in Austria (4.8%) and Germany (5.2%), and the highest in Greece (27.3% in August) and Spain (26.7%). In October, **youth unemployment** was 24.4% of the labour force of the same age (people aged 15-24), slightly higher than in the preceding month (24.3%) and considerably higher than one year ago (23.7%).

In 2013-Q2, seasonally-adjusted **employment** decreased by 0.1% q-o-q (-0.4% in 2013-Q1), whereas hours worked increased (0.6% q-o-q). According to the Commission's survey results, **employment expectations** in November were increasing in industry and services, but falling in retail trade and construction. Consumer unemployment fears increased in November (2.1 points) for the second consecutive month, following a period of declines that had started in March.

### 5. International transactions

In September 2013, the **world trade volume** (goods) increased 0.8% m-o-m, following a decrease of 0.9% in August. World trade expanded by 1.1% q-o-q in 2013-Q3 (0.3% in 2013-Q2). In November 2013, the positive overall developments were also reflected in a substantial improving assessment of the current level of **export order books in manufacturing** 





to -14.3 pp. (from -18.2 pp. in October), above its long-term average.

In September 2013, the seasonally adjusted **trade balance** was in surplus, for the twenty-third consecutive month, at  $\[ \le 14.3 \]$  bn. The seasonally adjusted **current-account balance** also recorded a surplus, for the twenty-sixth month in a row ( $\[ \le 13.7 \]$  bn.). Surpluses were recorded for goods, services and income ( $\[ \le 13.7 \]$  bn,  $\[ \le 7.6 \]$  bn and  $\[ \le 1.5 \]$  bn respectively), whereas a deficit was registered for current transfers ( $\[ \le 10.1 \]$  bn). The **financial account** recorded net outflows of  $\[ \le 12 \]$  bn, by way of net outflows for both direct investment ( $\[ \le 7 \]$  bn) and portfolio investment ( $\[ \le 5 \]$  bn).

### 6. Prices

In November 2013, the **HICP inflation rate** is expected to be 0.9%, up from 0.7% in October, according to Eurostat's flash estimate. Among the main components of headline inflation, food, alcohol & tobacco is expected to have had the highest annual rate (1.6%, down from 1.9%), followed by services (1.5%, from 1.2%), non-energy industrial goods (0.3%, unchanged from October) and energy (-1.1%, up from -1.7%). **Core inflation** (all items excl. energy and unprocessed food) decreased to 1.0% in October (from 1.2%).

The Commission's autumn 2013 forecast projects HICP inflation of 1.5% in 2013 and 2014, and 1.4% in 2015. In November 2013, consumer price expectations decreased, remaining below their long-term average. In October 2013, industrial producer prices fell at an annual rate of 0.5%. Prices in the energy sector, non-durable consumer goods and intermediate goods decreased respectively by 1.4%, 0.3% and 0.2%, while capital goods and durable consumer goods remained stable. Compared with October 2012, industrial producer prices decreased by 1.4%.

**Brent oil prices** were broadly stable since October, trading around USD 109/barrel and thus close to the oil price levels registered in the first half of the year, but markedly below the peak of USD 116 per barrel at the end of August. Reference prices for Brent crude oil were stable despite supply disruptions in several countries in the Middle East and Africa. On 3 December, Brent crude traded at 110.5 USD/bbl. (corresponding to 81.28 EUR/bbl.).

# 7. Monetary and financial indicators

Money market interest rates were broadly stable in October and November with the 3-month EURIBOR standing at 0.23%. At its meeting on 5 December, the ECB Governing Council kept policy interest rates on the main refinancing operations and the interest rates on the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility unchanged at the levels that were resulting from the rate

cut in November (at 0.25%, 0.75% and 0.00% respectively).

Benchmark **sovereign bond yields** had moved up ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) decision in September to more than 2% in the euro area. In the wake of the decision to postpone tapering, yields came down again until a less dovish FOMC statement in October was followed by a moderate upward movement. In the euro area, on 3 December the benchmark yield of ten-year sovereign bonds stood at 1.73%.

According to the ECB Bank Lending Survey for the third quarter of 2013, net tightening of credit standards to non-financial corporations edged down marginally and remained below historical averages. The net tightening of credit standards applied to housing loans decreased somewhat further below the historical average, whereas for loans for consumer credit banks reported a marginal net tightening after a slight net easing had been reported in the second quarter of 2013.

As to **bank lending**, the annual rate of change of M3 decreased markedly to 1.4% in October 2013 (2.0% in September and 2.3% in August). The annual growth rate of loans to the private sector was -1.7%, down from -1.6% in September (adjusted for loan sales and securitisation). Loans to non-financial corporations contracted by 2.9% in October (-2.8% in September). The growth rate of loans to households stood at 0.3% in October, unchanged since June.

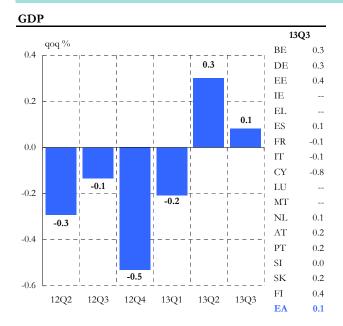
Following the reaffirmation the of highly accommodative stance of monetary policy in the US at the October meeting of the FOMC, the federal funds rate remains between 0 to 1/4% with thresholds related to the unemployment rate remaining above 61/2%, inflation projections not exceeding the 2% target by more than 0.5 pp., and longer-term inflation expectations continuing to be well anchored. On 3 December, the US 3-month Libor rate stood at 0.24%.

Since mid-2013, the EUR/USD **exchange rate** fluctuated between 1.28 and 1.39 USD. The relative strength of the euro has been on the back of several themes including the easing of the crisis in Europe, monetary policies, an improved European outlook, increased risks outside Europe, and flows back into the euro. The euro has been slowly appreciating with respect to the yen, since this years' low of 113.61 on 1 January. On 3 December, the euro foreign exchange reference rates stood at 1.3578 USD and 135.78 JPY.

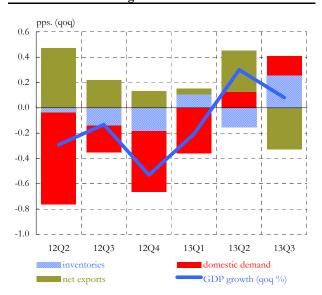
European **stock markets** have followed a volatile path upwards. After a sell-off in June following the market expectations about the Federal Reserve gradually pulling back from QE3 in autumn, markets have performed strongly, supported by reassuring macro-economic data, strong corporate earnings data, and expectations of monetary policy remaining accommodative.



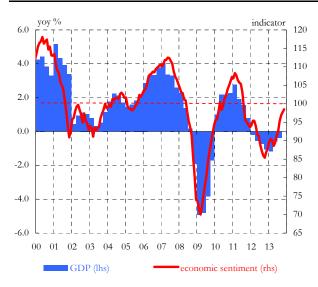
## 1. OUTPUT



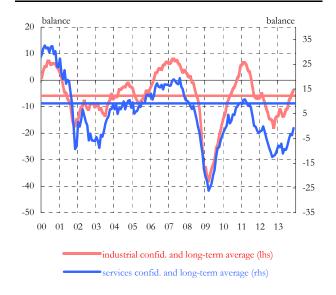
# Contributions to GDP growth



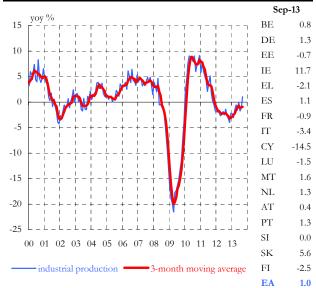
# GDP and Economic Sentiment Indicator



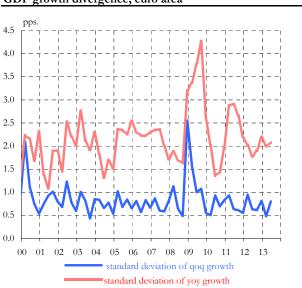
# Industrial and services confidence



### Industrial production



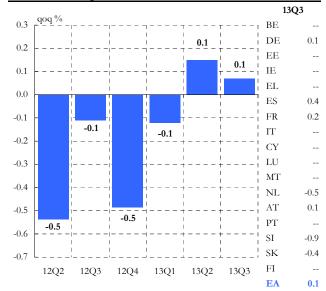
GDP growth divergence, euro area



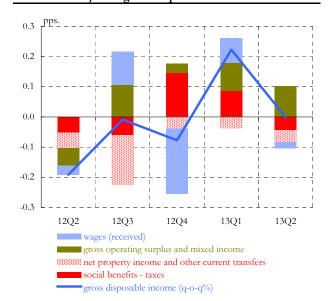


### 2. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION

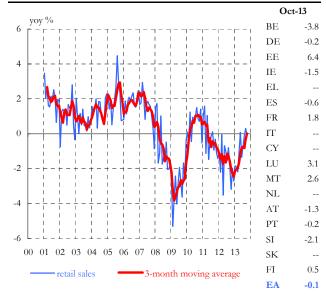
## Private consumption



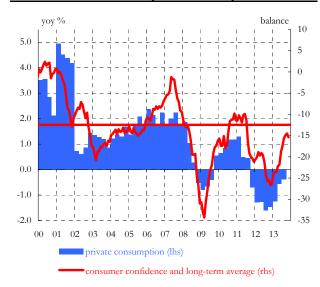
# Household adjusted gross disposable income



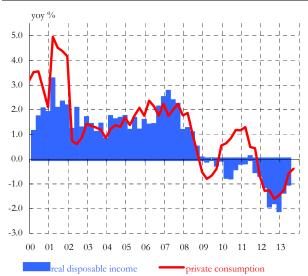
### Retail sales



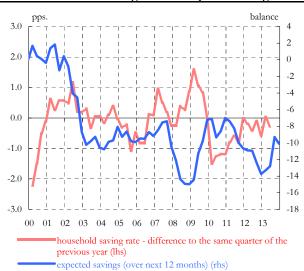
### Consumer confidence and private consumption



## Households: real disposable income and consumption



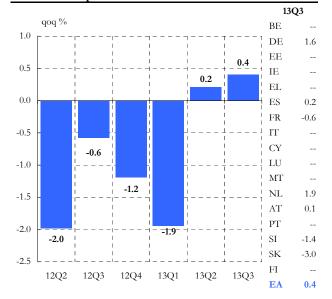
### Households: actual saving rate and expected savings



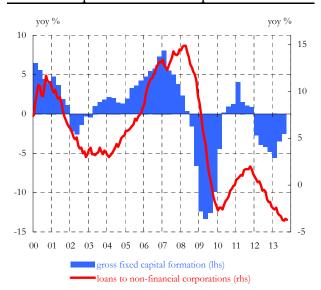


### 3. INVESTMENT

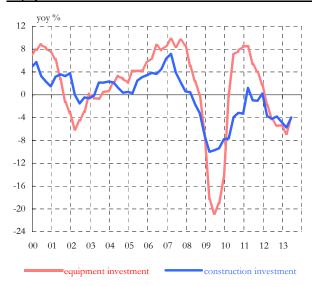
## Gross fixed capital formation



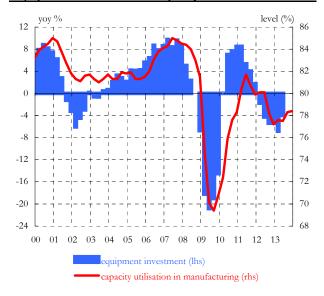
# Gross fixed capital formation and corporate loans



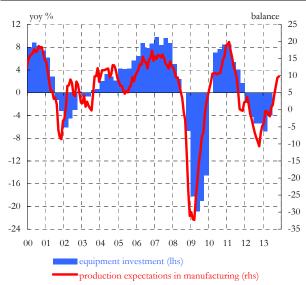
### Equipment and construction investment



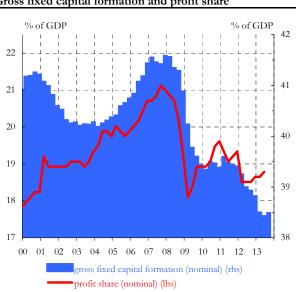
# Equipment investment and capacity utilisation



## Equipment investment and production expectations



# Gross fixed capital formation and profit share



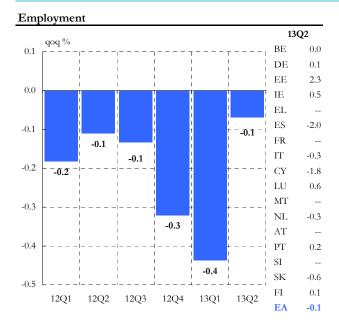


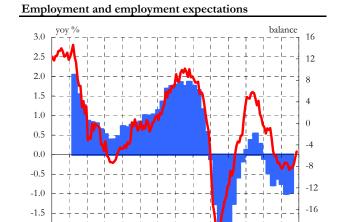
-20

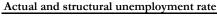
### 4. LABOUR MARKET

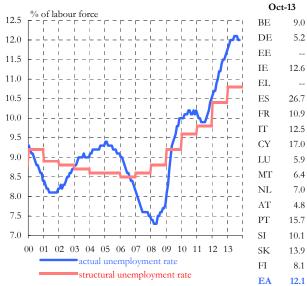
-2.0

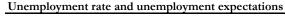
-2.5





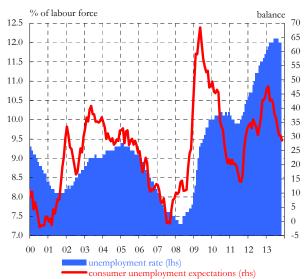




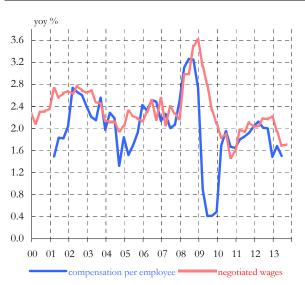


employment expectations (whole economy) (rhs)

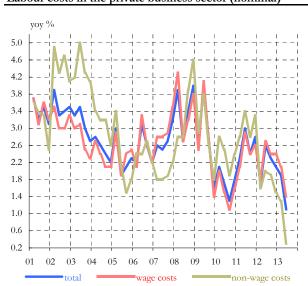
employment (lhs)



## Compensation per head and negotiated wages (nominal)



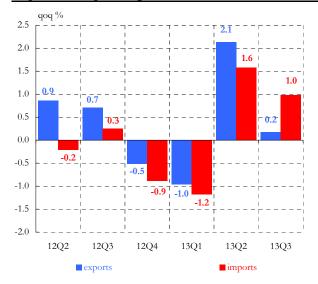
# Labour costs in the private business sector (nominal)



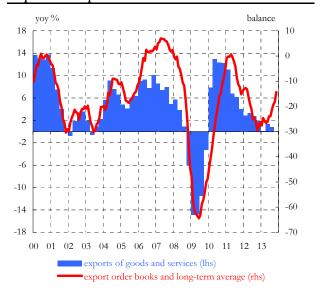


## 5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS

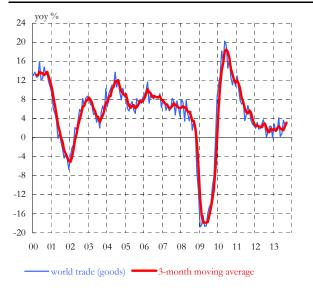
# Exports and imports of goods and services



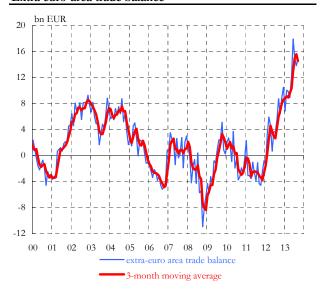
# Exports and export order books



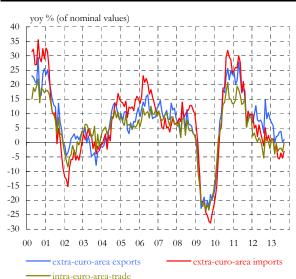
# World trade



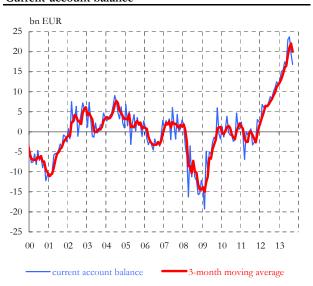
## Extra euro-area trade balance



### Extra- and intra-euro-area trade



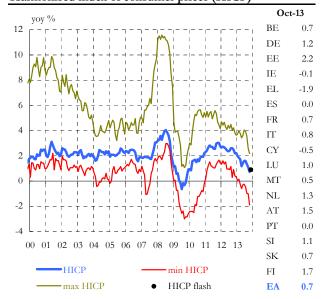
# Current-account balance



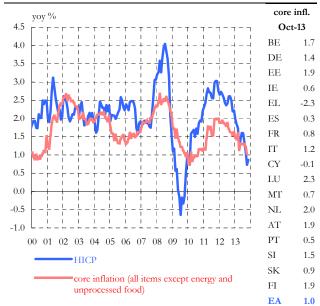


### 6. PRICES

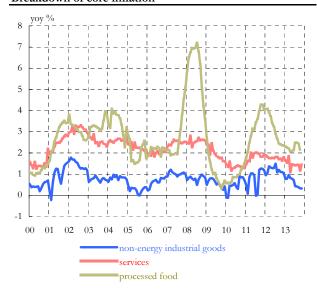
## Harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP)



# HICP headline and core inflation



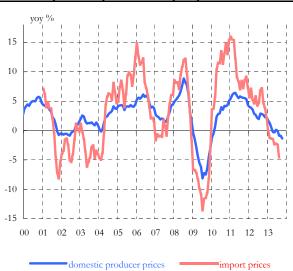
### Breakdown of core inflation



#### Energy and unprocessed food



### Domestic producer prices and import prices



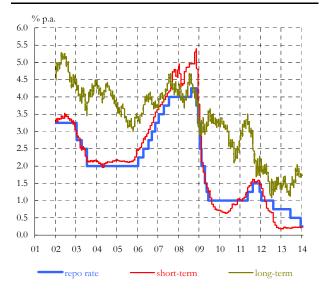
### Oil prices



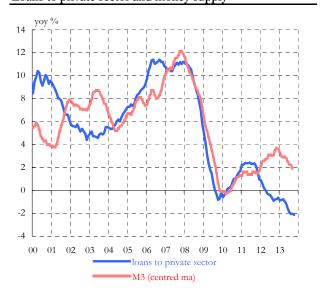


## 7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS

# Nominal interest rates



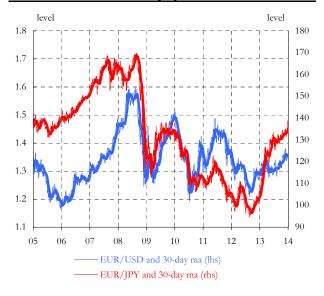
# Loans to private sector and money supply



### Real interest rates



# Euro vis-à-vis US dollar and JP yen



## Stock market indices

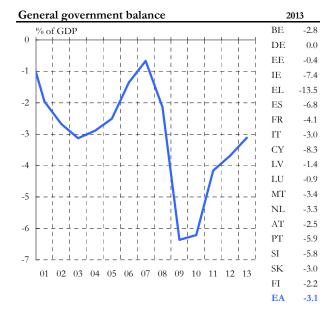


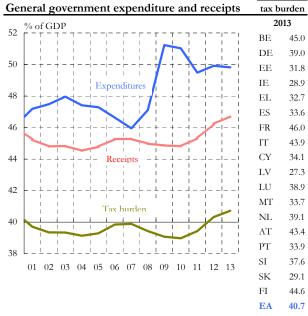
### Nominal effective exchange rates

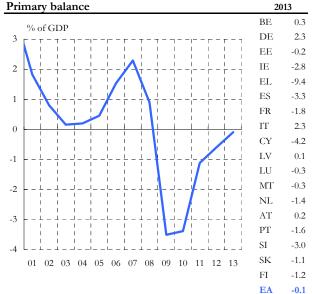


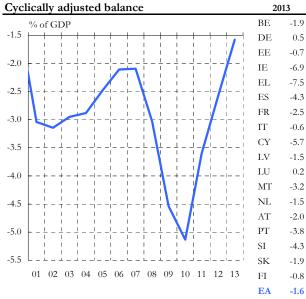


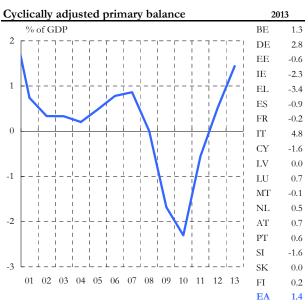
### 8. PUBLIC FINANCES

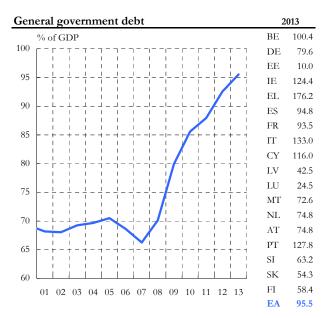












<sup>\*</sup> Figures are from the Commission's autumn 2013 forecast



| Euro area  Indicators as from 2011 refer to Belgium (BE), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), I (IE), Greece (GR), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Luxem (LU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Portugal (PT), Sloveni Slovakia (SK) and Finland (FI). |   |             |  |  |  |
|---|---|-------------|--|--|--|
| Indicator   | Note  | Source      |  |  |  |
|   | 1. Output   |             |  |  |  |
| Economic 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<br>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<br>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<br>ECFIN |  |  |  |
| Industrial production   | Monthly Industry Production Index (2010=100), NACE Rev.2, Total industry (excluding construction). Mom % ch. and qoq% ch. are seasonally adjusted, yoy% ch. are working-day adjusted.   | Eurostat    |  |  |  |
| Gross domestic product  | Gross domestic product at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year 2005), EUR. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.  | Eurostat    |  |  |  |
| Labour productivity   | Labour productivity defined as the difference between GDP growth and employment growth.   | Eurostat    |  |  |  |
| GDP divergence  | Standard deviation of GDP growth of the following countries: BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, CY, LU, NL, AT, PT, SI, FI.  | 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<br>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<br>ECFIN |  |  |  |
| Private consumption   | Household & NPISH final consumption expenditure at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year 2005), EUR. Data are seasonally and working-day 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 working-day 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<br>ECFIN |  |  |  |
| Production expectations   | Production expectations in manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.  | DG<br>ECFIN |  |  |  |
| Gross fixed capital formation   | Gross fixed capital formation at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year 2005), EUR. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.   | Eurostat    |  |  |  |
| Equipment investment  | Gross fixed capital formation at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year 2005), EUR, metal products, machinery and transport equipment. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.  | Eurostat    |  |  |  |
| Construction investment   | Gross fixed capital formation at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year 2005), EUR, construction work and housing. Data are seasonally and working-day 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 (manufacturing) | Managers' employment expectations over the next three months in the manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.  | DG<br>ECFIN |
| Employment expectations (services)      | Managers' employment expectations over the next three months in the services sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.   | DG<br>ECFIN |
| Employment expectations (whole economy) | Weighted average of managers' employment expectations over the next three months in the manufacturing (19%), services (65%), construction (6%) and retail sectors (10%). Weights in brackets according to value-added share on GDP of the respective sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.   | DG<br>ECFIN |
| Employment                              | Total domestic employment (number of persons). Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.   | Eurostat    |
| Compensation of employees per head      | Nominal compensation of employees divided by the number of employees. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.  | DG<br>ECFIN |
| Unemployment expectations               | Consumers' unemployment expectations over the next twelve months. Data are seasonally adjusted.  | DG<br>ECFIN |
| Unemployment rate                       | Harmonised unemployment rate (in percent of labour force), ILO definition. Data are seasonally adjusted.   | Eurostat    |
| Structural unemployment rate            | Non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment. Data are seasonally adjusted.   | OECD        |
| Total labour costs                      | Nominal wage- and non-wage costs less subsidies in the private business sector. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.  | Eurostat    |
| Wage costs                              | Nominal wage and salary costs include direct remunerations, bonuses, and allowances, payments to employees saving schemes, payments for days not worked and remunerations in kind. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.   | Eurostat    |
| Non-wage costs                          | Nominal non-wage costs include the employers' social contributions plus employment taxes less subsidies. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.   | Eurostat    |
| Labour productivity                     | Ratio between GDP and employment. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.  | DG<br>ECFIN |
|   | 5. International transactions  |             |
| World trade                             | Volume, 2005=100, seasonally adjusted  | CPB         |
| Export order books                      | Managers' export order expectations in the manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.   | DG<br>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 balance           | Difference between extra-euro area exports and extra-euro area imports. Data are seasonally adjusted.  | Eurostat    |
| 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 working-day adjusted.  | ECB         |
| Exports of goods and services           | Exports of goods and services at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year 2005), EUR. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.  | Eurostat    |
| Imports of goods and services           | Imports of goods and services at constant market prices (chain-linked volumes, reference year 2005), EUR. Data are seasonally and working-day adjusted.  | Eurostat    |
| Direct investment                       | Nominal transactions/positions in assets abroad by euro-area residents less nominal transactions/positions in euro-area assets by non-residents. To be regarded as a direct investment, ownership in an enterprise must be equivalent to more than 10% of the ordinary shares or voting power.   | ECB         |
| Portfolio investment                    | Nominal transactions/positions in securities (including equities) abroad by euroarea residents less nominal transactions/positions in euro-area securities (including equities) by non-residents. To be regarded as a portfolio investment, ownership in an enterprise must be equivalent to less than 10% of the ordinary shares or voting power. | ECB         |



|                                     | ( n '   |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| LHCD                                | 6. Prices   | -                   |
| HICP                                | Harmonised index of consumer prices (index 2005=100)  | Eurostat            |
| Core HICP                           | HICP excluding energy and unprocessed food (index 2005=100)   | Eurostat            |
| Producer prices                     | Domestic producer price index, total industry excluding construction (index 2010=100)   | Eurostat            |
| Selling price expectation           | Managers' selling-price expectations in the manufacturing sector. Data are seasonally adjusted.   | DG<br>ECFIN         |
| Import prices                       | Unit value index of imports, Current Prices (index 2005=100)  | Eurostat            |
| 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 2010=100)   | HWWI                |
|                                     | 7. Monetary and financial indicators  |                     |
| Nominal interest rate (3-month)     | 3-month EURIBOR interbank rate (360 days)   | ECB/Ec<br>owin      |
| Nominal interest rate (10-year)     | 10-year interest rate on government bonds for euro area (based upon the 10-year German government bond)   | ECB/Ec<br>owin      |
| ECB repo rate                       | Minimum bid rate of main refinancing operations, end of period.   | ECB/Ec              |
| Money demand (M3)                   | Monetary aggregate including currency in circulating (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<br>ECFIN         |
| Real short-term interest rates      | Nominal interest rate (3-month) deflated by HICP index  | DG<br>ECFIN         |
| Stock markets                       | Eurostoxx50, Dow Jones and Nikkei indices (1.1.1999=100)  | Ecowin              |
| Exchange rates                      | EUR/USD and EUR/JPY reference rates   | ECB                 |
| Nominal effective exchange rate     | Graph – Monthly Nominal Effective Exch. Rates vs. rest of IC36 (index 2005 = 100)  Table - ECB Nominal effective exch. rate, euro area-17 countries vis-à-vis the   | DG<br>ECFIN/<br>ECB |
|                                     | EER-20 group of trading partners against Euro  8. Public finance  |                     |
| Conord coverns                      |   | DC                  |
| General government balance          | Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of general government  | DG<br>ECFIN         |
| Primary government balance          | Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of general government minus interest payment   | DG<br>ECFIN         |
| Cyclically adjusted balance         | Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of general government corrected for the influence of the business cycle  | DG<br>ECFIN         |
| Cyclically adjusted primary balance | Primary government balance corrected for the influence of the business cycle  | DG<br>ECFIN         |
| General government                  | Nominal expenditures and receipts; tax burden includes taxes on production and  | DG                  |
| expenditures and receipts           | imports (incl. taxed paid to EU), current taxes on income and wealth (direct taxes) and actual social contributions   | ECFIN               |
| General government debt             | Cumulative sum of net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) positions of general government  | DG<br>ECFIN         |