

The Brussels Economic Forum 2007

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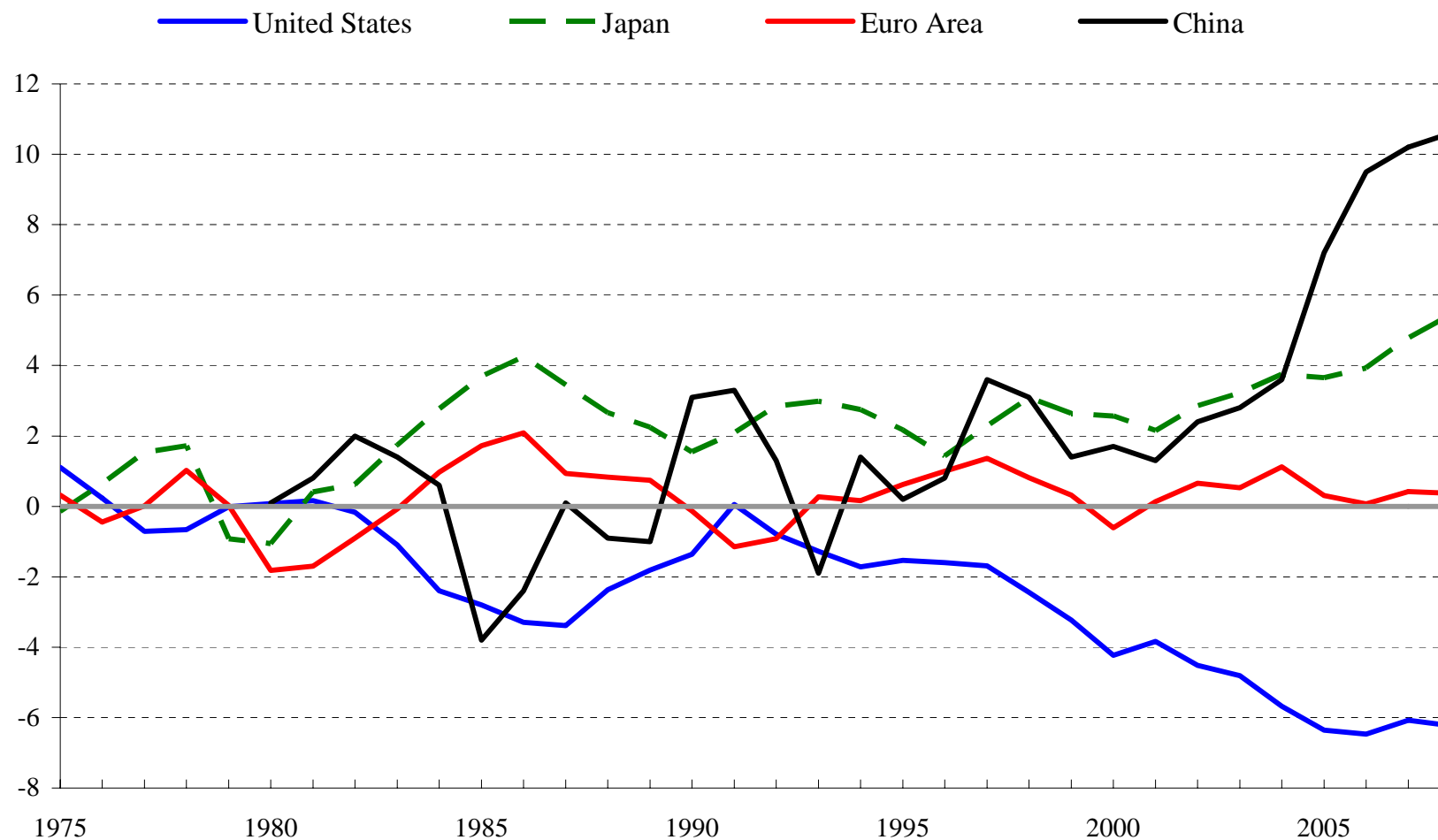
Unwinding global imbalances: how much can we expect from structural reforms in financial, product and labour markets?

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Widening imbalances across the main geographic areas...

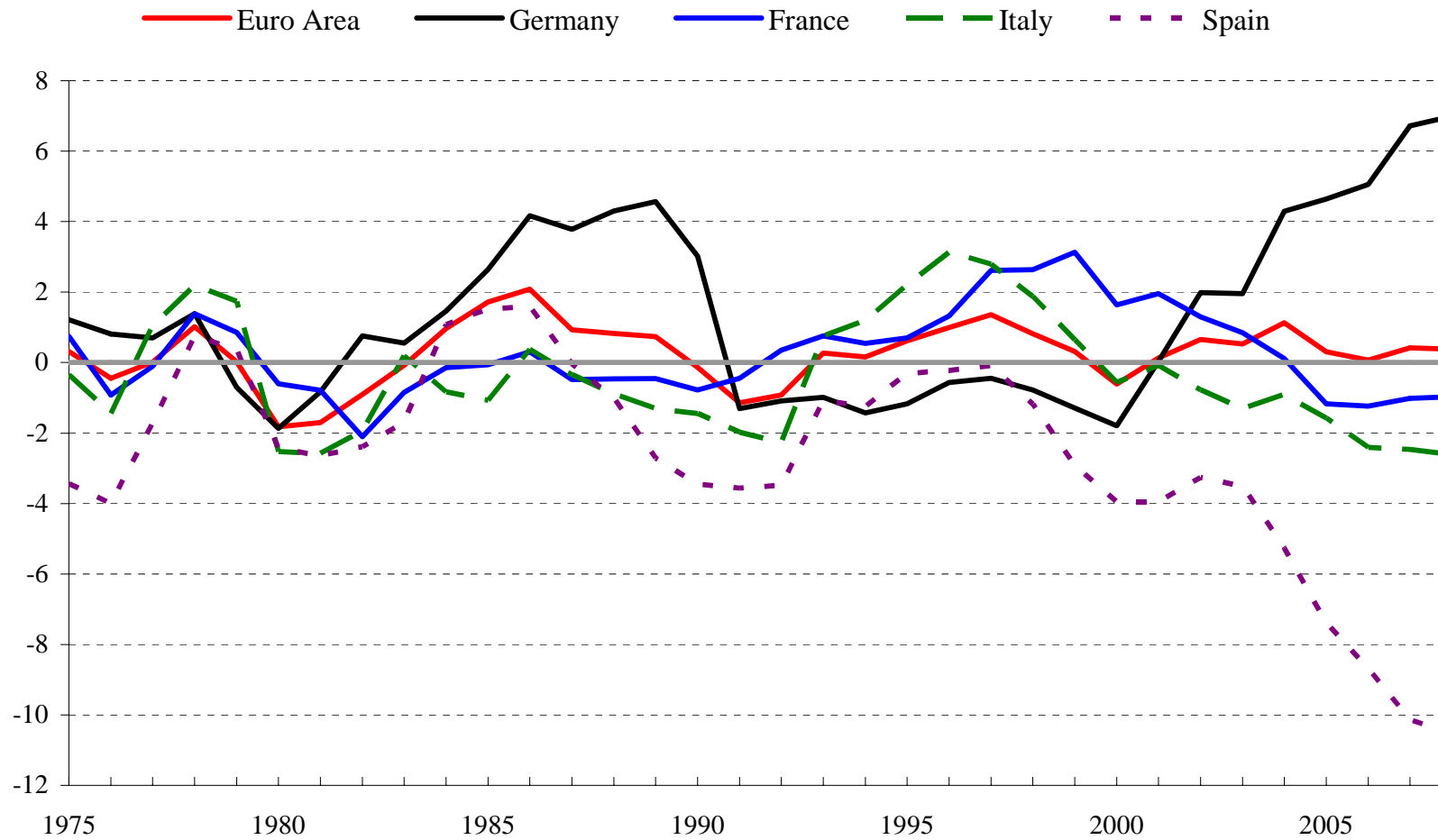
Current account imbalances across the main geographic areas
as a percentage of GDP



Source: OECD Economic Outlook 81 database, IMF World Economic Outlook.

...as well as within the euro area

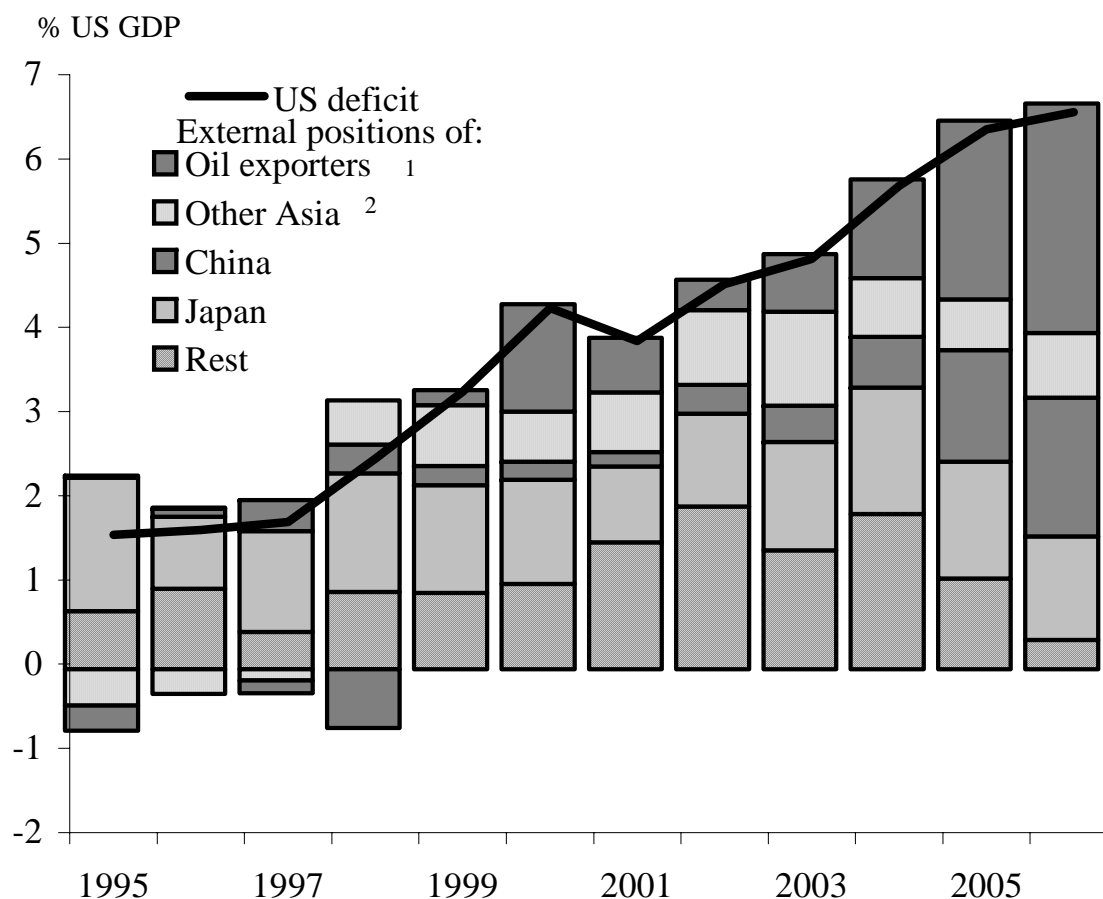
Current account imbalances within the euro area
as a percentage of GDP



Note: Data for Germany prior to 1991 refer to Western Germany.
Source: OECD Economic Outlook 81 database.

Almost half of the US current account deficit last year came from trade with oil-exporting economies

US current account deficit and its global counterparts



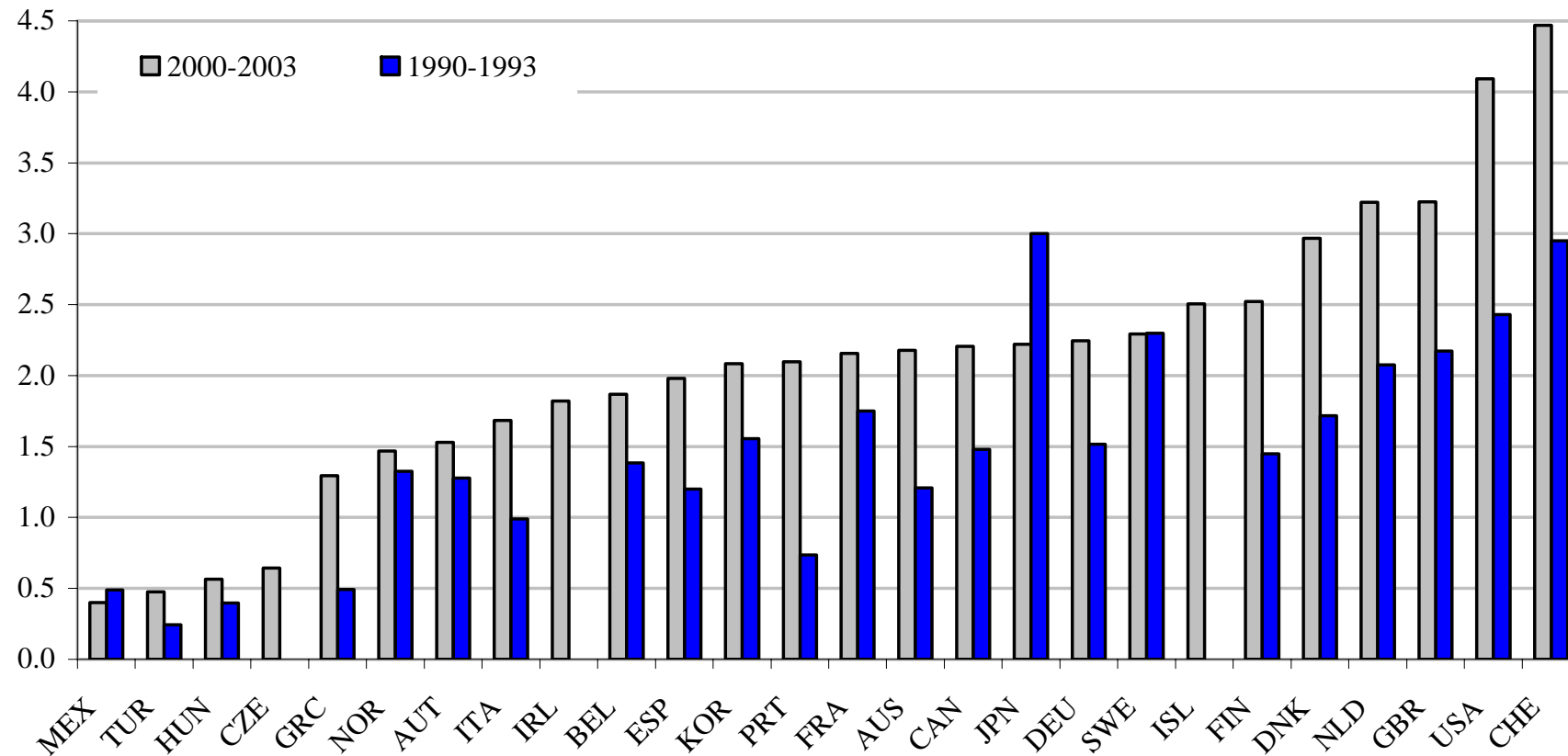
1. Africa and Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe.

2. Non OECD Asia and Oceania, excluding China and the Middle East.

Source: OECD Economic Outlook 80 database, International Monetary Fund.

Financial markets remain far less developed in euro area countries and Japan than in the US

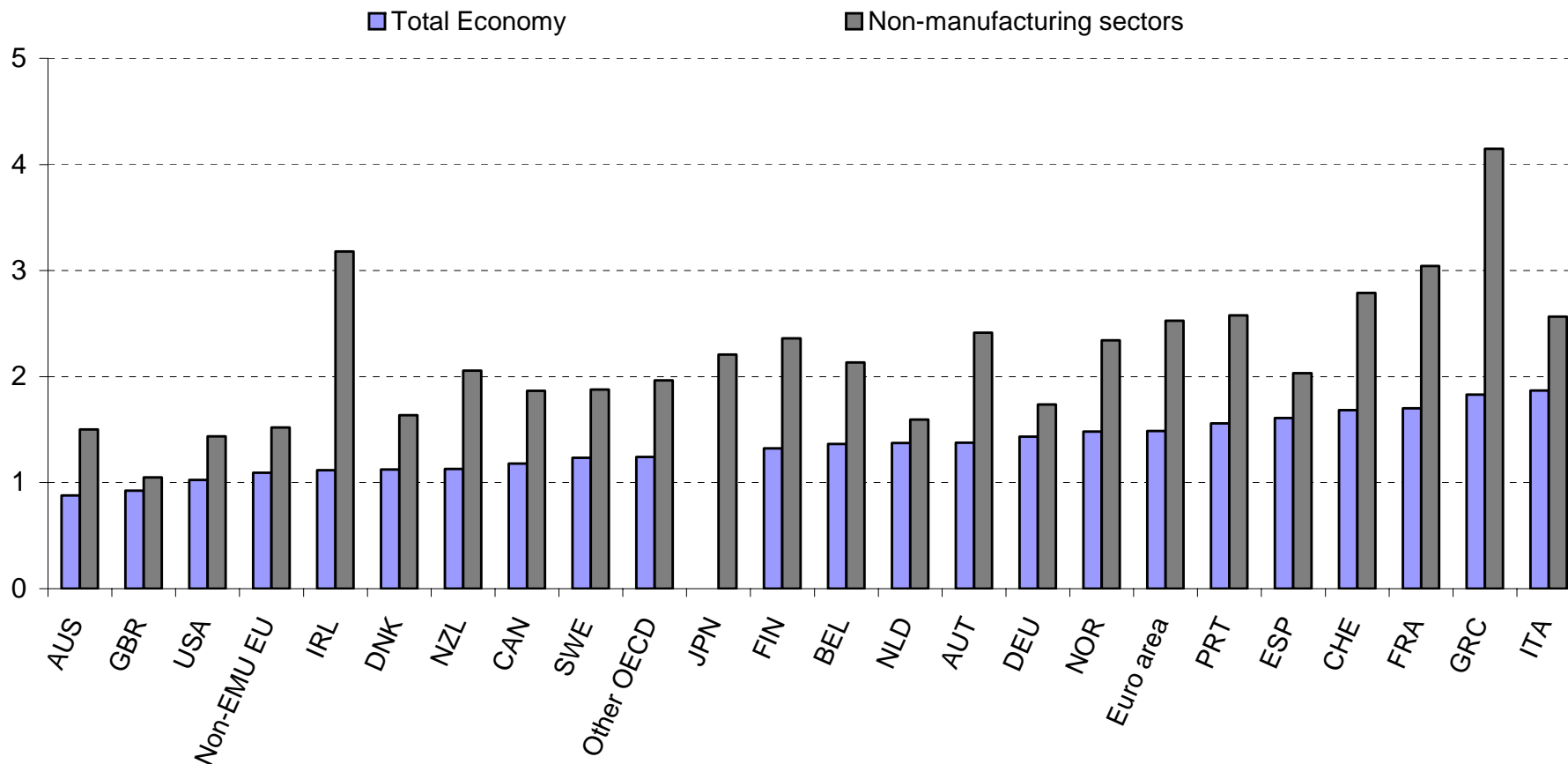
Total loans to private sector and securities market capitalisation as a ratio of GDP



Source: World Bank financial structure database.

Product market regulation remains more stringent in large euro area countries and Japan than in the US

OECD indicators of product market regulation



Source: Conway P. and Nicoletti G. (2006), "Product market regulation in the non-manufacturing sectors of OECD countries: measurement and highlights", OECD Economics Department Working Paper No. 530.