

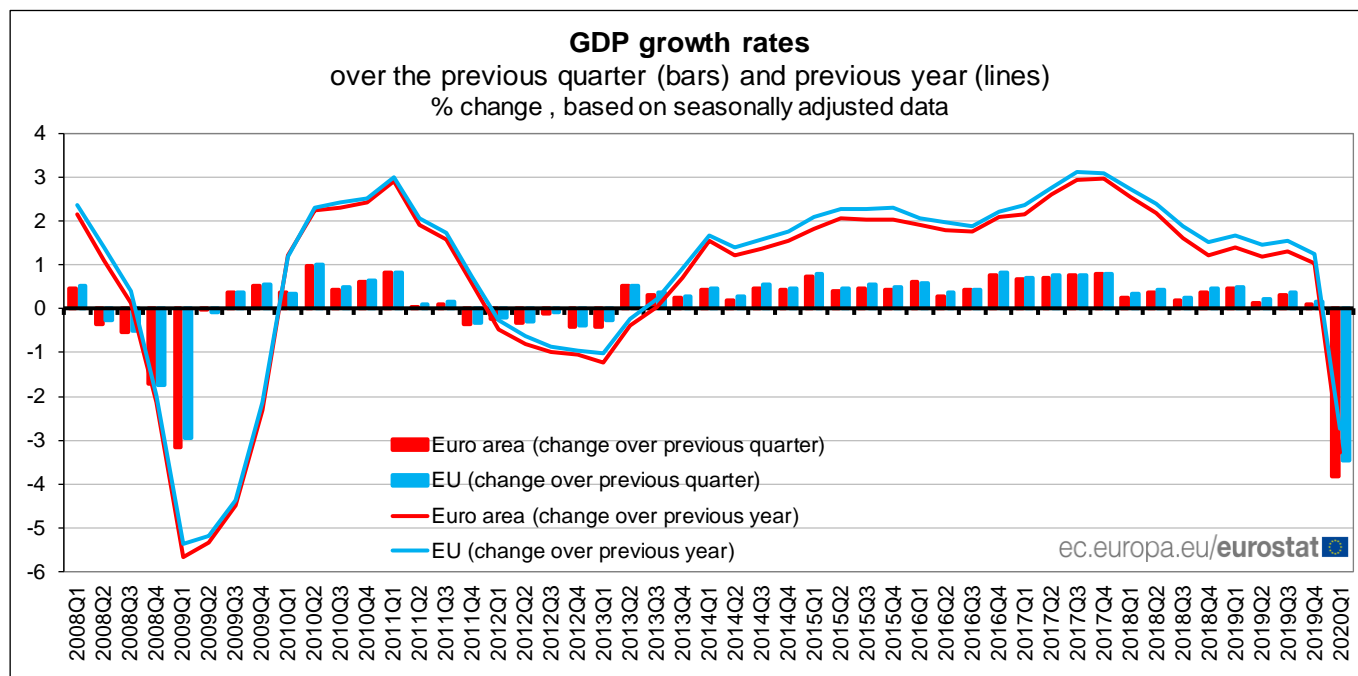
Preliminary flash estimate for the first quarter of 2020

GDP down by 3.8% in the euro area and by 3.5% in the EU

-3.3 % and -2.7% respectively compared with the first quarter of 2019

Seasonally adjusted GDP decreased by 3.8% in the **euro area** and by 3.5% in the **EU** during the first quarter of 2020, compared with the previous quarter, according to a preliminary flash estimate published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. These were the sharpest declines observed since time series started in 1995. In March 2020, the final month of the period covered, COVID-19 containment measures began to be widely introduced by Member States. In the fourth quarter of 2019, GDP had grown by 0.1% in the **euro area** and by 0.2% in the **EU**.

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP decreased by 3.3% in the **euro area** and by 2.7% in the **EU** in the first quarter of 2020, after +1.0% and +1.3% respectively in the previous quarter. These were the sharpest declines since the third quarter of 2009 (-4.5% for euro area and -4.4% for EU).



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			
	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1
EA	0.1	0.3	0.1	-3.8	1.2	1.3	1.0	-3.3
EU	0.2	0.4	0.2	-3.5	1.5	1.6	1.3	-2.7

Data are adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects. Source dataset: [namq_10_gdp](#).

Geographical information

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

European Union (EU27): Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

Methods and definitions

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

The preliminary flash estimate of the first quarter of 2020 GDP growth presented in this release is based on the data of 16 Member States, covering 93% of EA19 GDP and 88% of EU27 GDP. The country coverage was not affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Two statistical working papers present the preliminary GDP flash methodology for the [European estimates](#) and [Member States estimates](#). The method used for compilation of European GDP estimates is the same as for previous releases.

Revisions and timetable

With this preliminary 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 t+45 flash estimate scheduled for 15 May 2020 and subsequently by Eurostat's regular estimates of GDP and main aggregates (including employment) scheduled for 9 June 2020 and 20 July 2020.

Data on revisions for test estimations, showing that the preliminary flash estimation procedure is sufficiently reliable, are available in chapter 5 of the statistical working paper [Euro area and EU GDP flash estimates at 30 days](#). These GDP flash estimates are based on sources data that are incomplete and subject to further revisions under the COVID-19 containment measures. The next estimate for the first quarter 2020 will be released on 15 May 2020.

For more information

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

Eurostat [database section](#) on national accounts

Eurostat Statistics Explained articles on [measuring quarterly GDP](#) and the presentation of [quarterly data](#)

Eurostat [metadata](#) on quarterly national accounts

[Note](#) on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on national accounts

[Guidance](#) on quarterly national accounts (including flash) estimates in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

[European System of Accounts 2010](#)

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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