

Box 12

FORECASTS BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS

A number of forecasts for the euro area are available from both international organisations and private sector institutions. However, these forecasts are not strictly comparable with one another or with the Eurosystem staff macroeconomic projections, as they were finalised at different points in time and are therefore partly outdated. Additionally, they use different (partly unspecified) methods to derive assumptions for fiscal, financial and external variables, including oil prices. Finally, there are differences in working-day adjustment methods across different forecasts (see the table below).

In the forecasts currently available from other institutions, euro area real GDP growth is seen to be between 2.3% and 2.7% in 2007, and between 2.2% and 2.5% in 2008. The forecasts anticipate annual average HICP inflation to be between 1.8% and 2.0% in 2007, and between 1.9% and 2.0% in 2008. All forecasts fall within the ranges of the Eurosystem projections.

Comparison of forecasts for euro area real GDP growth and HICP inflation

(average annual percentage changes)

	Date of release	GDP growth			HICP inflation		
		2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
IMF	Apr. 2007	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0
European Commission	May 2007	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.9
OECD	May 2007	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.0
Consensus Economics Forecasts	May 2007	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.9
Survey of Professional Forecasters	May 2007	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.9
Eurosystem staff projections	June 2007	2.9	2.3-2.9	1.8-2.8	2.2	1.8-2.2	1.4-2.6

Sources: European Commission Economic Forecasts, Spring 2007; IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2007; OECD Economic Outlook No 81 – May 2007, Preliminary Edition; Consensus Economics Forecasts; and the ECB's Survey of Professional Forecasters.

Note: The Eurosystem staff macroeconomic projections and the OECD forecasts both report working-day-adjusted annual growth rates, whereas the European Commission and the IMF report annual growth rates that are not adjusted for the number of working days per annum. Other forecasts do not specify whether they report working-day-adjusted or non-working-day-adjusted data.