

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Eurosystem staff macroeconomic projections, as they were finalised at different points in time and are therefore partly outdated.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.

In the forecasts currently available from other institutions, there is a consensus that euro area annual GDP growth will average between 2.0% and 2.2% in 2006. The forecasts for GDP growth in 2007 are between 1.8% and 2.1%. At the same time, the forecasts anticipate annual average HICP inflation to be between 2.1% and 2.2% in 2006, and between 2.0% and 2.2% in 2007. All of these rates 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		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
European Commission	May 2006	1.3	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.2
IMF	Apr. 2006	1.3	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.2
OECD	May 2006	1.4	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0
Consensus Economics Forecasts	May 2006	1.4	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.1
Survey of Professional Forecasters	Apr. 2006	1.3	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.1

Sources: European Commission Economic Forecasts, Spring 2006; IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2006; OECD Economic Outlook No 79, Preliminary Edition; Consensus Economics Forecasts; and the ECB's Survey of Professional Forecasters. 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.