

**Box 10****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Eurosystem staff macroeconomic projections, as they were finalised at different points in time and are therefore partly outdated.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 and other commodity 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 is expected to grow by between 1.4% and 1.7% in 2008 and by between 1.2% and 1.6% in 2009. All available forecasts for growth thus fall within the ranges of the Eurosystem projections. The forecasts anticipate average annual HICP inflation to be between 2.8% and 3.4% in 2008, which means that a number of forecasts are below the range of the Eurosystem projections, possibly owing to the use of older assumptions for commodity prices. For 2009, forecasts are within the range 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	
		2008	2009	2008	2009
IMF	April 2008	1.4	1.2	2.8	1.9
European Commission	April 2008	1.7	1.5	3.2	2.2
Survey of Professional Forecasters	April 2008	1.6	1.6	3.0	2.2
Consensus Economics Forecasts	May 2008	1.5	1.6	3.1	2.1
OECD	June 2008	1.7	1.4	3.4	2.4
Eurosystem staff projections	June 2008	1.5-2.1	1.0-2.0	3.2-3.6	1.8-3.0

Sources: European Commission Economic Forecasts, Spring 2008; IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2008; OECD Economic Outlook No 83, June 2008, 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.