

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. 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 decline by between 0.3% and 0.6% in 2013, which is within the range of the Eurosystem staff projection and compares with a midpoint of -0.6%. For 2014, real GDP is projected to increase by between 0.9% and 1.2%, which is within the range of the Eurosystem staff projection and compares with a midpoint of 1.1%.

As regards inflation, the forecasts from other institutions point to an average annual HICP inflation of between 1.5% and 1.7% in 2013, which is somewhat higher than the range and the midpoint of the Eurosystem staff projection. In 2014, HICP inflation is expected to average between 1.2% and 1.6%, which is within the Eurosystem staff projection range and compares with a midpoint of 1.3%.

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

(average annual percentage changes)

	Date of release	GDP growth		HICP inflation	
		2013	2014	2013	2014
IMF	April 2013	-0.3	1.1	1.7	1.5
Survey of Professional Forecasters	May 2013	-0.4	1.0	1.7	1.6
Consensus Economics Forecasts	May 2013	-0.5	0.9	1.6	1.6
Euro Zone Barometer	May 2013	-0.4	1.0	1.6	1.6
OECD	May 2013	-0.6	1.1	1.5	1.2
European Commission	May 2013	-0.4	1.2	1.6	1.5
Eurosystem staff projections	June 2013	-0.6	1.1	1.4	1.3
		[-1.0 – -0.2]		[0.0 – 2.2]	
				[1.3 – 1.5]	
				[0.7 – 1.9]	

Sources: European Commission Economic Forecasts, Spring 2013; IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2013; OECD Economic Outlook, May 2013; Consensus Economics Forecasts; MJEconomics; and the ECB's Survey of Professional Forecasters.

Notes: 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.