README

This README describes the structure and content of the files included in the zip.

File: 0_Round_dates.csv

This file contains the key dates associated with each forecasting round.

- **ref_round**: Identifier for the forecast round (e.g., 1999Q1, 1999Q2, etc.).
- **start_date**: Date when the questionnaire is sent to the SPF (Survey of Professional Forecasters) panel.
- **end_date**: Deadline for returning the completed questionnaires.
- **publication_date**: Date when the SPF results are made publicly available on the ECB website.

Files: 1_HICP.csv, 2_HICPX.csv, 3_RGDP.csv, 5_UNEM.csv.

These files contain forecast data related to HICP, HICPX, RGDP and Unemployment.

- **ref_round**: Identifier for the forecast round (e.g., 1999Q1, 1999Q2, etc.).
- **fct_topic**: Forecast topic (HICP, HICPX, RGDP, UNEM).
- **forecaster_id**: Identifier for the forecaster. Possible values include:
    - **1-137**: Individual forecasts submitted by participants.
    - **AGG**: Aggregated forecast (average of individual forecasts).
    - **ECB**: Reference HICP/HICPX/RGDP/UNEM values provided by the ECB at the start of the round.
- **target_period_type**: Type of target period for the forecast. Possible values include:
    - **A_YEAR_0_AHEAD**: Annual average for the calendar year corresponding to the forecast round.
    - **A_YEAR_1_AHEAD**: Annual average for the next calendar year following the forecast round.
    - **A_YEAR_2_AHEAD**: Annual average for the second calendar year after the forecast round.
    - **A_YEAR_LONG_TERM**: Annual average for 4 years (in Q1-Q2 rounds) or 5 years (in Q3-Q4 rounds) ahead of the forecast round.
    - **M_YEAR_1_AHEAD/ Q_YEAR_1_AHEAD**: Forecast for 1 year ahead of the latest available HICP/HICPX/UNEM data point. Forecast for 1 year ahead of the latest available RGDP data point.
    - **M_YEAR_2_AHEAD/ Q_YEAR_2_AHEAD**: Forecast for 2 years ahead of the latest available HICP/HICPX/UNEM data point. Forecast for 2 years ahead of the latest available RGDP data point.
    - **M_REFERENCE/Q_REFERENCE**: Reference HICP/HICPX/UNEM value provided at the start of the round. Reference RDGP value provided at the start of the round.
- **target_period**: Specific target period requested in each round. It can refer to a full year or a specific month (for HICP, HICPX and UNEM) or a specific quarter (for RGDP).
- **table_name**: Type of forecast. Possible values include:
    - **Point**: Point forecast.
    - **Probabilities**: Forecasts represented as probability intervals.
- **probability_interval**: Probability interval for probabilistic forecasts. This field will be **NA** for point forecasts.

File: 4_RGDP_Q.csv.

This file contains forecast data related to the quarterly profile or RGDP.

- **ref_round**: Identifier for the forecast round (e.g., 1999Q1, 1999Q2, etc.).
- **fct_topic**: Forecast topic (RGDP-Q).
- **forecaster_id**: Identifier for the forecaster. Possible values include:
    - **1-137**: Individual forecasts submitted by participants.
    - **AGG**: Aggregated forecast (average of individual forecasts).
    - **ECB**: Reference RGDP period to period change (QoQ). This value is not provided by the ECB at the start of the round.
- **target_period_type**: Type of target period for the forecast. Possible values include:
    - **Q_QUARTER_1_BEHIND**: Quarterly average for the quarter corresponding to one quarter prior to the forecast round. Since RGDP data is published with a two-quarter delay relative to the SPF forecast round, the first forecast requested in the SPF correspond to the preceding quarter.
    - **Q_QUARTER_0_AHEAD**: Quarterly average for the quarter corresponding to the forecast round.
    - **Q_QUARTER_1_AHEAD**: Quarterly average for the next quarter following the forecast round.
    - **Q_QUARTER_2_AHEAD**: Quarterly average for the second quarter after the forecast round.
    - **Q_REFERENCE**: Reference RDGP period to period (QoQ) at the start of the round. This value is not provided by the ECB at the start of the round and refers to two quarters before the forecast round.
- **target_period**: Specific target period requested in each round. It refers to a specific quarter.
- **table_name**: Type of forecast. Possible values include:
    - **Point YoY**: Point forecast in YoY terms. Forecasters have the option of reporting YoY or QoQ values.
    - **Point QoQ**: Point forecast in QoQ terms. Forecasters have the option of reporting YoY or QoQ values. Aggregates and reference values are provided in QoQ terms.
- **probability_interval**: This field will be **NA**.

File: 6_Assumptions.csv.

This file contains forecast data related to oil prices, interest rates, exchange rates and labour costs.

- **ref_round**: Identifier for the forecast round (e.g., 1999Q1, 1999Q2, etc.).
- **fct_topic**: Forecast topic (ASSU_ECBPIR, ASSU_LABCOST, ASSU_OILUSD, ASSU_USDEUR).
- **forecaster_id**: Identifier for the forecaster. Possible values include:
    - **1-137**: Individual forecasts submitted by participants.
    - **AGG**: Aggregated forecast (average of individual forecasts).
- **target_period_type**: Type of target period for the forecast. Possible values include:
    - **A_YEAR_0_AHEAD**: Annual average for the calendar year corresponding to the forecast round (only for ASSU_LABCOST).
    - **A_YEAR_1_AHEAD**: Annual average for the next calendar year following the forecast round.
    - **A_YEAR_2_AHEAD**: Annual average for the second calendar year after the forecast round.
    - **A_YEAR_LONG_TERM**: Annual average for 4 years (in Q1-Q2 rounds) or 5 years (in Q3-Q4 rounds) ahead of the forecast round.
    - **Q_QUARTER_0_AHEAD**: Quarterly average for the quarter corresponding to the forecast round (only for ASSU_ECBPIR, ASSU_OILUSD and ASSU_USDEUR).
    - **Q_QUARTER_1_AHEAD**: Quarterly average for the next quarter following the forecast round (only for ASSU_ECBPIR, ASSU_OILUSD and ASSU_USDEUR).
    - **Q_QUARTER_2_AHEAD**: Quarterly average for the second quarter after the forecast round (only for ASSU_ECBPIR, ASSU_OILUSD and ASSU_USDEUR).
    - **Q_QUARTER_3_AHEAD**: Quarterly average for the third quarter after the forecast round (only for ASSU_ECBPIR, ASSU_OILUSD and ASSU_USDEUR).
- **target_period**: Specific target period requested in each round. It can refer to a full year or a specific quarter.
- **table_name**: Type of forecast. Possible values include:
    - **Point**: Point forecast.
- **probability_interval**: This field will be **NA**.