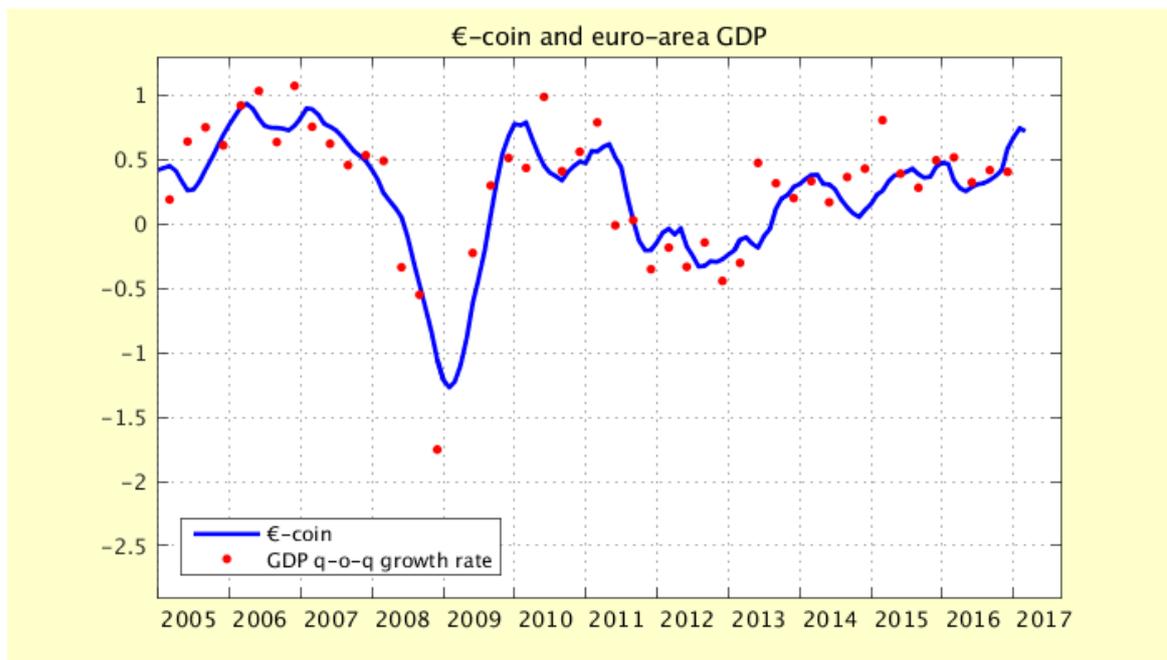


## €coin falls slightly in March

For immediate release: 08.30 GMT; 09.30 CET; Friday, 31 March 2017

- After nine consecutive increases the **€coin** indicator recorded a slight reduction in March (falling to 0.72 from 0.75 in February), but remains at cyclically high levels.
- The positive contribution of stock market developments was more than offset by the appreciation of the euro against the US dollar and persistent weak growth in labour costs.
- The **€coin** indicator developed by the Bank of Italy provides a summary index of the current economic situation in the euro area. The indicator is an estimate of quarterly GDP growth shorn of the most erratic components (seasonal variations, measurement errors and short-run volatility). **€coin** is published monthly by the Bank of Italy and CEPR.
- Next **€coin** release dates: **Friday 28 April** and **Wednesday 31 May** (preliminary).

### €coin and euro-area GDP – March 2017



Sources: Bank of Italy and Eurostat.

**€coin** collates data from a large set of macroeconomic time series (industrial production indices, business surveys, demand indicators, stock market indices and more). It extracts the information that is relevant to tracking underlying GDP trends for the entire area.

The **€coin** estimate is timely, leading Eurostat's official release of the area-wide GDP growth figure by several months. And it provides a reasonably close anticipation of the quarterly growth rate net of the more volatile components. The estimate of underlying growth trends by **€coin** has two key advantages:

- (i) monthly frequency, with release several months ahead of the official euro-area GDP estimate;
- (ii) immunity to the short-term fluctuations and measurement errors that mark quarterly output growth; that is, the index figure is an indicator of the euro area's actual growth momentum.

**The following table shows the performance of the €coin indicator over the last year:**

Month	€COIN
March 2016	0.34
April 2016	0.28
May 2016	0.26
June 2016	0.29
July 2016	0.31
August 2016	0.32
September 2016	0.34
October 2016	0.38
November 2016	0.45
December 2016	0.59
January 2017	0.68
February 2017	0.75
March 2017	0.72

For further technical details on **€coin**, see "New Eurocoin: Tracking economic growth in real time", *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, No. 92, 1024-1034, available in the Bank of Italy working paper series (Temi di Discussione della Banca d'Italia) no. 631.

[http://www.bancaditalia.it/pubblicazioni/temi-discussione/2007/2007-0631/en\\_tema\\_631.pdf](http://www.bancaditalia.it/pubblicazioni/temi-discussione/2007/2007-0631/en_tema_631.pdf)  
<http://eurocoin.cepr.org>