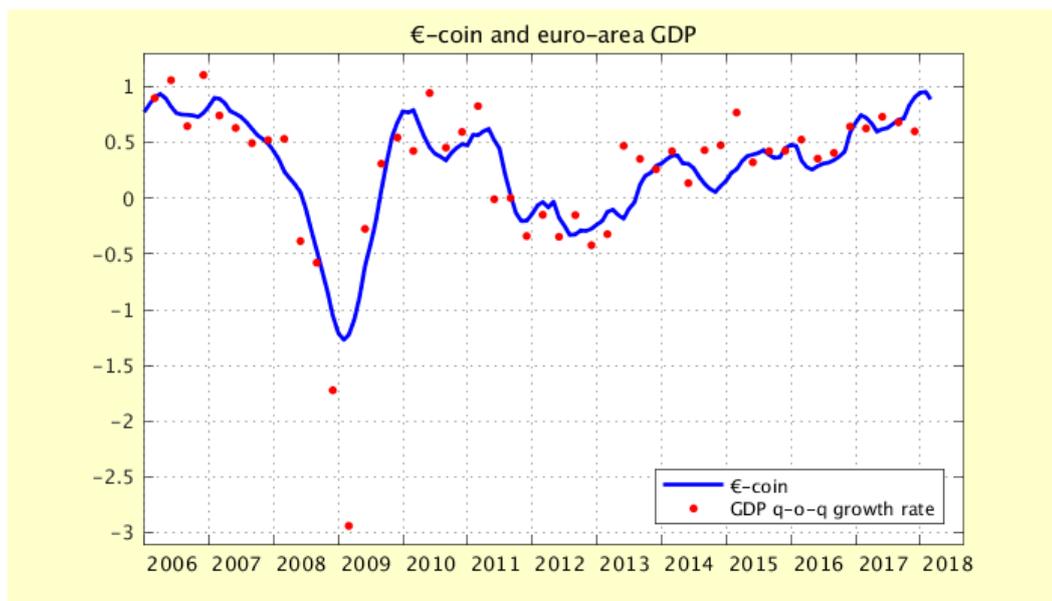


€-coin falls in March but stays close to historically high levels

For immediate release: 08.30 BST; 09.30 CET; Friday, 30 March 2018

- In March **€-coin** fell for the first time since May last year (0.89; 0.96 in February), though it remained around the highest levels recorded since 2006.
- The indicator was affected by the slowdown in industrial activity and, in particular, by the deterioration in business confidence, as well as by the downward correction in share prices.
- 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 27 April** and **Thursday 31 May** (preliminary).

€-coin and euro-area GDP – March 2018



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 2017	0.72
April 2017	0.67
May 2017	0.60
June 2017	0.62
July 2017	0.63
August 2017	0.67
September 2017	0.71
October 2017	0.72
November 2017	0.84
December 2017	0.91
January 2018	0.95
February 2018	0.96
March 2018	0.89

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://eurocoin.cepr.org>