

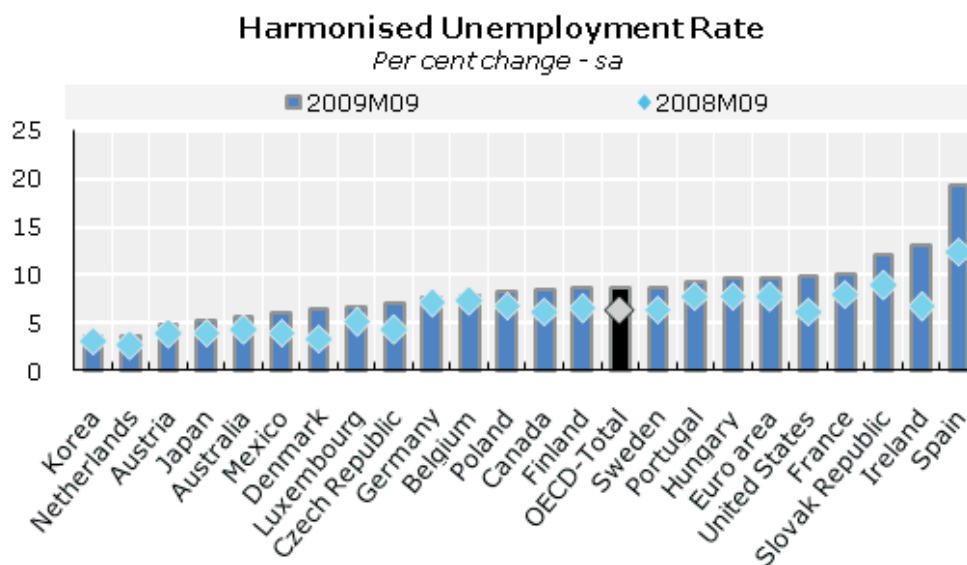
Completion of changes to the Main Economic Indicators paper publication

Introduction

As signalled in the February 2009 Main Economic Indicators (MEI) paper publication, November 2009 will see the completion of changes to the MEI paper publication. The changes reflect an increased emphasis on cross-country comparability with a greater use of composite indicators, more derived series (for example activities as a share of GDP), and more series being presented as growth rates.

The tables in the new Part I will mostly be accompanied by a new style of graph that will better visualise the data. These graphs are modelled on those presented in the very successful OECD publication: OECD Factbook. The graphs are bar charts with the bars representing the current period and points (usually diamonds) representing previous periods. As well as including all available OECD member countries, the graph where possible will include the OECD-Total (in a different colour) and the non-member countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, and South Africa.

Here is an example:



The tables will also change in that they will become standardised, each table will include:

- 16 periods of data; this will be either a combination of annual, quarterly and monthly, *or* annual and quarterly *or* just monthly;
- Each table will have all 30 OECD member countries (in alphabetical order), Euro Area, OECD-Total, Major Seven, OECD-Europe, European Union, and the OECD non-member countries (in alphabetical order);
- A clear heading and description of the units used in the table; and,

- Generic footnotes of the same type used in Part II and Part III of the publication which can be found on the page following Part III of the publication. These three generic footnotes are:

1. Coverage
2. Time-Period
3. Information item.

The subjects

The following table outlines in general the subjects that will now be presented in Part I (from November 2009) including the measures that are used. As stated in the previous MEI Article (February 2009) a big factor in the move to this presentation is the flexibility that it will allow in introducing new subject tables into Part I, for example a House Price Index.

Part I - subjects

Theme / Subject	Measure / Unit
Gross Domestic Product (Volume)	
Private Consumption	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Government Consumption	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Exports of Goods and Services	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Imports of Goods and Services	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Confidence Indicators	
Business Confidence: Manufacturing	Amplitude adjusted
Consumer Confidence	Amplitude adjusted
Composite Leading Indicators	
Composite Leading Indicators	Amplitude adjusted
Real Indicators	
Industrial Production	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Manufacturing	Per cent change, sa
Construction	Per cent change, sa
Permits Issued: Dwellings	Per cent change, sa
Passenger Car Registrations	Per cent change, sa
Retail Trade (Volume)	Per cent change, sa
Prices	
Consumer Prices - All Items	Per cent change
Consumer Prices - Food	Per cent change
Consumer Prices - Energy	Per cent change
Consumer Prices - excluding Food and Energy	Per cent change
Consumer Prices - Total HICP	Per cent change
Producer Prices - Domestic Manufacturing	Per cent change
Labour	
Hourly Earnings	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Unit Labour Cost - Total Economy	Per cent change, trend-cycle

Unit Labour Cost - Industry	Per cent change, trend-cycle
Unit Labour Cost - Market Services	Per cent change, trend-cycle
Harmonised Unemployment Rate	Per cent change, sa
Total Employment	Per cent change, sa
Total Labour Force	Per cent change, sa
Financial Indicators	
Overnight Interbank Rate	Per cent per annum
3 Month Interbank Rate	Per cent per annum
10 Year Government Bonds	Per cent per annum
Share Prices	Per cent change
Monetary Aggregates - Narrow Money	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Monetary Aggregates - Broad Money	Index 2005 = 100, sa and Per cent change, sa
Real Effective Exchange Rate - Relative Consumer Price Indices	Index 2005 = 100
Real Effective Exchange Rate - Relative Unit labour Costs	Index 2005 = 100
Exchange Rates - Monthly Average	National Currency per US Dollar
International Trade	
Net Trade	Billions US Dollars, Monthly Averages, sa
Exports	Billions US Dollars, Monthly Averages, sa and As a percentage of GDP
Imports	Billions US Dollars, Monthly Averages, sa and As a percentage of GDP
World trade	Billions US Dollars, Monthly Averages, sa
Balance of Payments	
Current Account	Billions US Dollars, Monthly Averages, sa and As a percentage of GDP
Services Balance	Billions US Dollars, Monthly Averages, sa and As a percentage of GDP
Exports of Services	Billions US Dollars, sa
Imports of Services	Billions US Dollars, sa
Net Direct Investment	Billions US Dollars, sa

Main Economic Indicators Data

It is important to note that all MEI series currently disseminated electronically will remain. In other words the exclusion of certain series from the publication does not imply a discontinuation of these series within the electronic version of the database (on-line or CD-Rom).

Contact

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