

# Comunicato Stampa

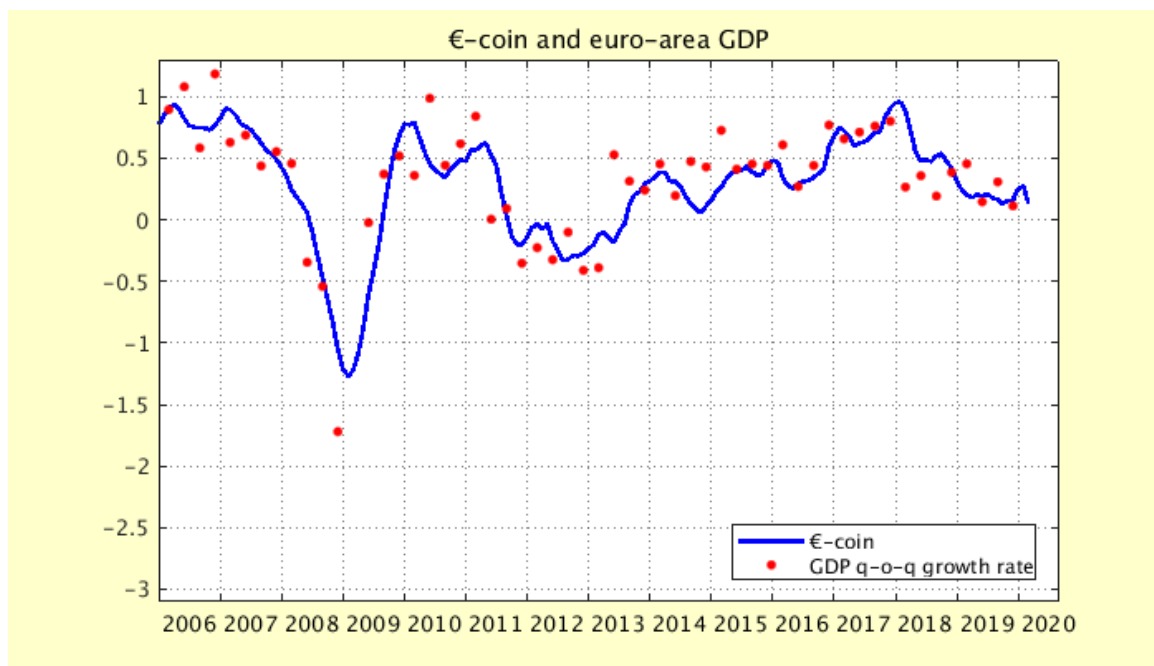
DIFFUSO A CURA DEL SERVIZIO SEGRETERIA PARTICOLARE DEL DIRETTORIO E COMUNICAZIONE

31 March 2020

## €-coin decreases in March

- **€-coin** decreased in March, to 0.13, from 0.28 in February.
- The indicator does not yet capture the full scale of the impact on economic activity of the ongoing pandemic, as only a small subset of the data available for March that were used for its construction refers to the latest developments.
- The reduction in **€-coin** observed so far only reflects the initial effects of the fall in share prices and the widespread deterioration in business and consumer confidence that occurred in the second half of March in connection with the spread of the pandemic across euro-area countries.
- 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: **Thursday, 30 April** and **Friday, 29 May** (provisional).

## €-coin and euro-area GDP – March 2020



Source: Bank of Italy and Eurostat.

*Note:* The €-coin series is based on the real time estimates of the indicator at a given date and hence the series is not revised. On the other hand, the GDP growth rates are calculated on the basis of Eurostat's most recently published series and do reflect any changes in the historical data.

**€-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 for tracking underlying GDP trends for the entire area.

The **€-coin** estimate is timely, anticipating Eurostat's official release of the area-wide GDP growth figure by several months. It also provides a reasonably close forecast 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 2019	0.20
April 2019	0.18
May 2019	0.20
June 2019	0.14
July 2019	0.21
August 2019	0.18
September 2019	0.16
October 2019	0.13
November 2019	0.15
December 2019	0.16
January 2020	0.25
February 2020	0.28
March 2020	0.13

For further technical details on **€-coin**, see 'New Eurocoin: Tracking economic growth in real time', *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 92, 1024-1034, available in the Bank of Italy's series Temi di Discussione (Working Papers), 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>