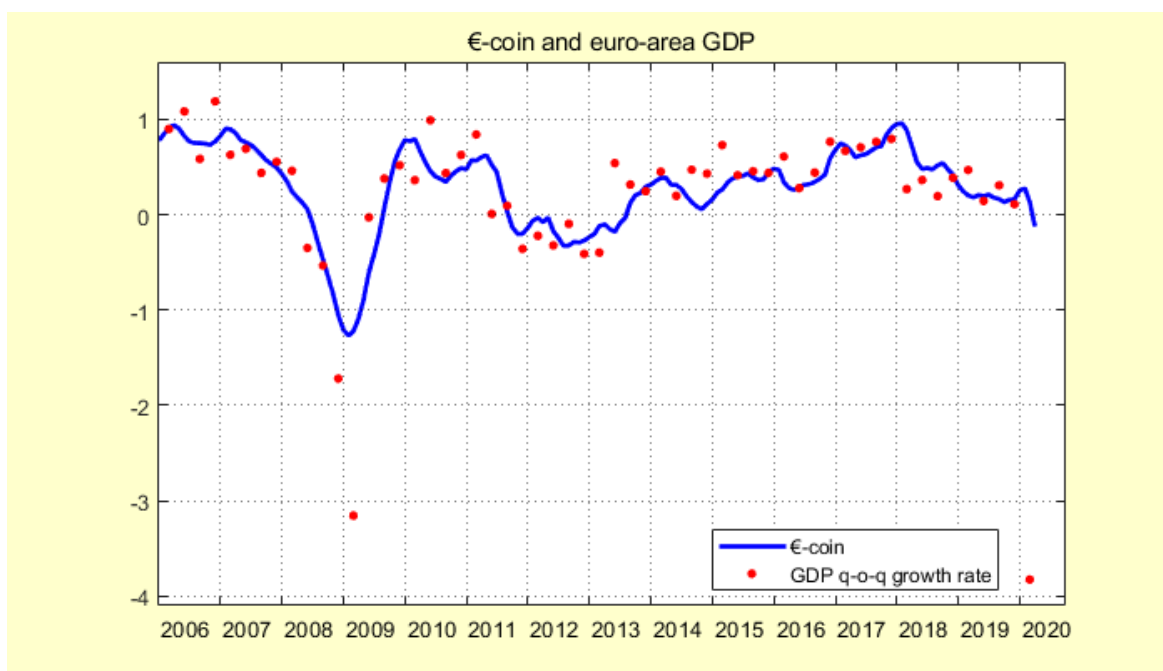


## €-coin contracts in April

**For immediate release: 08.30 BST; 09.30 CEST; Tuesday, 5 May 2020**

- In April, **€-coin** recorded its biggest drop on the previous month since the time series was begun, decreasing to -0.13 from 0.13 in March.
- The main factors were the contraction in activity in the euro area in the first quarter and the collapse in the confidence of consumers and firms since March, as a result of the spread of the pandemic in various 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: **Friday, 29 May** and **Friday, 26 June** (provisional).

### €-coin and euro-area GDP – April 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
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
April 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>