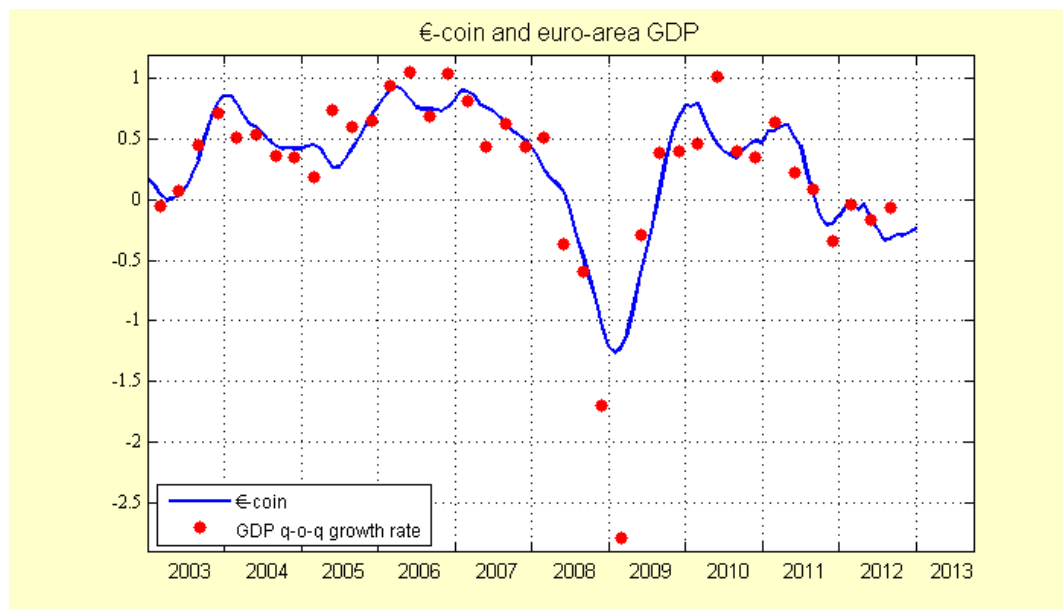


€-coin improves slightly in January, though remaining at negative levels

For immediate release: 08.30 GMT; 09.30 CET; Friday, 25 January 2013

- In January €-coin rose marginally, to -0.23% from -0.27% in December, after holding basically stable for four months.
- The modest improvement is ascribable to the easing of tensions on the financial markets, in contrast with a persistently negative contribution deriving from the weakness of manufacturing.
- 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 28 February** and **Friday 29 March** (provisional).

€-coin and euro-area GDP – January 2013



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
January 2012	-0.14
February 2012	-0.06
March 2012	-0.03
April 2012	-0.08
May 2012	-0.03
June 2012	-0.17
July 2012	-0.24
August 2012	-0.33
September 2012	-0.32
October 2012	-0.29
November 2012	-0.29
December 2012	-0.27
January 2013	-0.23

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/econo/temidi/td07/td631_07/td631

<http://eurocoin.bancaditalia.it>

<http://eurocoin.cepr.org>