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COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	2018 EFC Status Report on Information Requirements in EMU

Delegations will find attached the 2018 EFC Status Report on Information Requirements in EMU, as agreed by the Economic and Financial Committee.

Economic and Financial Committee

*Status Report
on Information Requirements
in EMU*

Brussels, 26 October 2018

2018 EFC REPORT - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As in previous years, the focus of the report, produced by Eurostat in consultation with the European Central Bank, remains on monitoring progress and describing plans for further improvement in the quality of the Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs).¹ Additionally, some of the most significant developments in the area of macroeconomic data include the establishment of the Early Warning System, the GNI MNEs Pilot exercise, and the work on Integrated Global Accounts. In this year's report, Eurostat records further progress in the production and dissemination of PEEIs, while recognising that despite the achievements made to date, more still remains to be done. This includes: (i) Further modernisation and harmonisation in the European Statistical System (ESS), (ii) further improvements in the areas of quality assessment, data validation, common revision policy, and (iii) the integration of business statistics. To achieve this, more investment in IT systems and tools, as well as in human resources, over the medium and long term, will be required. Financial resources have to be adequate for funding these wide-ranging improvements. Only by doing so can the demand for regular, high quality, official statistics in the EU, EMU and at Member State level be met, as requested and supported by the ECOFIN Council.

At its meeting on 7th November 2017, the ECOFIN Council welcomed the progress in the availability of the PEEIs, and recognised the improved coverage by countries for several indicators. Regarding the indicators for the G-20 data gaps initiative and SDDS Plus, the ECOFIN Council welcomed the efforts of EU Member States to adhere to the initiative at an early stage. It also welcomed the reinforced institutional framework for statistical work at G-20 level and called upon all stakeholders to promote the regular flow of comparable and high quality data across the G-20 economies in the second phase of the Data Gaps Initiative.

The 2018 EFC Status report describes the situation regarding the PEEIs in summer 2018. The main messages conveyed in this report are:

- In 2017, the **timeliness** of sector accounts covered by the PEEIs has improved from around T+120 to around T+94. With respect to advancing the timeliness of national accounts-based employment indicators, which still remain well behind the target for timeliness, test employment flash estimates for the EU and euro area at t+30 and t+45

¹ The term PEEIs refers to the short term economic statistics produced by the European Statistical System, i.e. Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes. Eurostat disseminates in addition a broader set of "Euroindicators" comprising the PEEIs, selected financial statistics produced by the European System of Central Banks and selected results from the business and consumer surveys produced by DG ECFIN.

were compiled by a Eurostat Task Force established at the beginning of 2017. Since the quality criteria for euro area and EU t+45 employment flash estimates were already fulfilled, and national macro-economic statistics directors committed to continued contributions of national estimates, Eurostat decided to start publishing these estimates already in mid-November 2018. This will advance the estimation of labour input consistent with national accounts by 30 days, reaching the 45 days first publication target for PEEIs originally set by the EFC. The release of quarterly government finance statistics for the euro area and EU aggregates is aligned with the schedule of the notified EDP data. The HICP flash estimate for the euro area is released at T+0 days or shortly afterwards, and over the last 12 months accurately predicted the official inflation rate, released at around T+17 days in 10 out of 12 cases.

- Regarding the **availability** of PEEIs, improvements continue in terms of country coverage. All countries are now at least partly compliant for the services producer price indices (SPPI), and work continues to improve the availability of SPPI time series. Availability of ESA 2010 data has significantly improved since the start of data transmissions in September 2014 largely thanks to the expiration and even earlier closure of ESA 2010 derogations. Between October 2015 and January 2018, the number of ESA 2010 tables with a relatively high degree of completeness increased for a large majority of countries. Availability of quarterly government finance statistics remains generally excellent, however, since October 2015 Eurostat has not been in a position to validate and publish quarterly financial accounts for general government as supplied by the Bank of Greece due to non-adherence with ESA2010 rules. The length of the available time series for quarterly non-financial accounts for general government, quarterly financial accounts for general government as well as quarterly government debt has increased due to the delivery of back data. Furthermore, the availability of seasonally adjusted data for total revenue, total expenditure and net lending/ net borrowing has increased. The house sales indicator at quarterly frequency remains not yet available (an indicator has been published at annual frequency), but work on developing this indicator has continued in 2018.
- Timeliness, punctuality and data availability of the ESS short-term business statistics (STS) remain at a high level. The change of the base year from 2010 to 2015 has been implemented for the ESS short-term business statistics starting from March 2018 (for monthly STS indicators) and from June 2018 (for quarterly STS indicators).

- An early-warning system (EWS) was set up in close co-operation between short-term business statistics and national accounts throughout the European statistical system to follow the statistical impact of the restructuring of big multinational enterprise groups within EU Member States. For the purpose of the EWS, the European Statistical System (ESS) collaborates closely with the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).
- In the field of **labour market statistics**, work on the priorities listed in 2015 by the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)² continues. In 2018, work in the area of labour market flows statistics focused on preparation of year-on-year transitions, as well as work on seasonal adjustment of additional labour market statistics time series. Labour cost Indices and Job Vacancy Statistics are now transmitted by Member States in accordance with international standards (SDMX). Moreover, the statistical programmes producing the quarterly labour cost indices and the derived annual labour cost levels have been rewritten, to ensure consistency between totals and components by design. Finally, indicators on the share of non-wage costs as well as annual growth rates of labour cost levels have been included in the tables published in Eurostat's database.
- Activities continued with regard to improvements in **sources and methods**, to further enhance the quality of statistical information. Further updates of related methodological manuals and inventories were completed. The Eurostat - OECD Compilation guide on inventories was published in September 2017³. Work on improving the quality checks on data transmissions in a dedicated ESA 2010 validation Task Force was also completed. Its main output is a validation handbook that informs on the project and documents validation rules for different national accounts domains⁴. Cooperation with Member States on further improving the validation rules and process via implementation of content validation rules in Eurostat's pre-validation service (CONVAL) is ongoing. The Commission implementing regulation on the modalities, structure, periodicity and assessment indicators of the quality reports on data transmitted was applied to compile first ESA 2010 quality reviews in 2017. Eurostat's assessment report on quality of national and regional accounts data transmitted by countries in 2016 was published on 17

² <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/42577/4167614/ESAC+opinion+labour+market+sept+2015/9d2c66eb-89f5-4eef-8c8e-504fef7e8745>

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/8228095/KS-GQ-17-005-EN-N.pdf/12e80726-35a3-46a9-869a-8f77ca3be742>

⁴ The handbook can be accessed by all users with an ECAS account using the link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/ESRNA/ESA+2010+Handbook+on+Data+Validation>

May 2018⁵. Regarding government finance statistics transmitted under ESA 2010, direct comparability with EDP data is assured as a result of Commission Regulation 220/2014.

- As regards seasonal adjustment of official statistics, the software package **JDemetra+** was previously implemented in Eurostat as the seasonal adjustment tool for short-term business statistics (STS), Sector Accounts, Job Vacancy Statistics and International Trade in Goods Statistics. Several Member States have already migrated or are envisaging migrating to JDemetra+. The use of JDemetra+ and the ESS guidelines on seasonal adjustment continued in the Member States for short-term business statistics in 2017.
- The Commission proposal for the **Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics (FRIBS)** was debated further by the co-legislators. In parallel, Commission implementing acts covering detailed data requirements, the definitions of statistical variables and additional technical specifications are being prepared in close co-operation with Member States and the ECB at technical level.
- Regarding the latest developments and activities at Eurostat in the context of globalisation, there is ongoing work by EU statisticians. Some of the most significant developments in the area of macroeconomic data include the establishment of the **Early Warning System (EWS)**, the ongoing **GNI MNEs Pilot exercise** concerning the consistent measurement across EU Member States of the activity of multi-national enterprises (MNEs), and the work on **Integrated Global Accounts (IGA)**.
- Further progress has been made in closing recognised data gaps under the **G-20 Data Gaps Initiative (DGI)**. The implementation of the second phase (DGI-2) is being closely monitored, and in particular there have been seminars on Commercial Property Price Indices, Sector accounts and Securities statistics.
- The **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus**, the third and highest tier of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives, went online in February 2015. The fact that fourteen out of the seventeen adherent countries are EU Member States flags prominently the contribution of EU statisticians to the Fund's initiative. This success is largely related to the efforts of the ESS and the ESCB to regularly enhance and broaden the base of European economic and financial statistics.

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/7870049/8900941/KS-FT-18-004-EN-N.pdf/bc2c1802-94cb-46ec-b1dd-849562fca9ff>

Implementation of the statistics for EMU relies on existing coordination structures and mechanisms. This includes, on a policy level, the strategic roles of the ECOFIN Council, the EFC and its advisory structures. European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by both the European Statistical System and the European System of Central Banks under separate legal frameworks, reflecting their respective governance structures, but in close cooperation and coordination with each other.

This report summarises the initiatives currently undertaken and the progress being made towards improving the production and dissemination of high quality, timely statistical information for euro area and EU policy-making. It is important that corresponding resources are ensured for fulfilling these tasks at European and national levels.

1. PROGRESS IN PEEIS SINCE AUTUMN 2017

Harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP)

The HICP flash estimate is published at the end of the reference month (T+0), or shortly thereafter, enabling a nearly real time monitoring of consumer price inflation in the euro area. The flash estimate is released with a breakdown of the all-items annual rate into food (with figures available for processed and unprocessed food), energy, non-energy industrial goods, and services aggregates, as well as three exclusion measures: the all-items excluding energy, the all-items excluding energy and unprocessed food and the all-items excluding energy and food. The full set of HICP data for the euro area, the European Union and for EU countries is released at around T+17 days.

As of January 2017, the preliminary data for the HICP flash estimate cover all countries in the euro area, and the statistic is of high quality. Over the last 12 months, the euro area flash estimate predicted accurately the final HICP figure in 10 out of 12 instances. Eurostat began disseminating country-level data for the HICP flash estimate in March 2017, expanding the available figures over time. Currently 15 out of the 19 euro area Member States have their all-items inflation rate published with the flash estimate release. Eurostat is working with the remaining countries in order to have national flash estimates disseminated for the whole euro area.

All Member States provide sub-indices at a more detailed level of classification of consumption used in the HICP (level 5 of ECOICOP), and as of mid-2017 all Member States provide level 5 ECOICOP data for the HICP at constant taxes. While Eurostat began publishing these national data in October 2016, the composition of the HICP special aggregates is still based on level 4 of ECOICOP. The availability of the more detailed level 5 data from all countries means that Eurostat can change over to special aggregates based on the level 5 classification. The new structure is finalised, and Eurostat plans to start disseminating the HICP special aggregates based on level 5 of ECOICOP in February 2019.

National accounts

Following the transition to ESA 2010, the EU's methodological reference framework, in 2014⁶ most Member States have compiled national accounts data in accordance with it. Two countries (France and the Netherlands) introduced benchmark revisions in 2018. A majority of countries are expected to perform benchmark revisions in 2019. Temporary derogations affecting completeness and timeliness of countries' regular transmissions were substantially reduced in 2017, but 23 EU Member States still have derogations in some areas until the end of 2019. While implementation of SDMX in the national production systems is still ongoing in some Member States, Eurostat made further progress in facilitating the development of shared validation responsibilities and IT services in the ESS. Structural validation checks were developed and can, in principle, be used to pre-check the validity of codes used for all ESA 2010 data transmissions. The development of content validation checks also started in 2017. They are based on the work of a 2015-2017 ESA 2010 validation Task Force which discussed and documented validation rules for different national accounts domains⁷. Content validation rules implemented in the pre-validation service (CONVAL) will be phased into production in a staged approach during 2018 and 2019 to facilitate for the early detection of errors at the earliest stage and reinforce the principle that countries have the prime responsibility to transmit correct data. Further quality improvements are expected with the staged development of a content validation service for national accounts data in 2018 and 2019.

The t+30 and t+45 GDP flash estimates for EU28 and euro area (EA19) data were appreciated by users in terms of their timeliness and reliability⁸. In light of very limited revisions between both flash estimates, a discontinuation of the t+45 GDP estimation by Eurostat is considered, after ensuring that countries also move to a t+30 publication of their GDP flash estimates and the planned introduction of a t+45 employment flash estimate. Alternative representations of countries' flash estimates will be proposed in this case.

The first comprehensive estimation of GDP main aggregates after about T+65 for the EA/EU was improved to include all output, expenditure and income breakdowns from September

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of 21 May 2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union.

⁷ The handbook can be accessed by all users with an ECAS account using the link:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/ESRNA/ESA+2010+Handbook+on+Data+Validation>

⁸ As regards national flash estimates, one Member State has indicated that the t+30 timescale is not well synchronised with its own budgetary cycle.

2017 onwards.⁹ Regular updates of the European main GDP aggregates after about t+100 days continued in 2018 since several countries (including Ireland) still have derogations to submit data later than t+2 months. It responds to user requests to incorporate country data received up to 3 months after the reference quarter to improve the coherence of data used for analysis and the forecasting process. Further consolidation of the estimation of European main GDP and employment aggregates will be implemented in relation to the regular publication of t+45 employment flash estimates scheduled for mid-November 2018. Implementation of improvements supporting automation of data loading, validation and the estimation process in Eurostat continued. An ESA 2010 Validation Task Force completed its mandate end 2017 to review and document validation rules in a validation handbook¹⁰. Implementation of content validation rules in an associated pre-validation service for countries' transmissions is ongoing. The aim is to further improve the timeliness of European aggregates and progressively move to a consolidated estimation of main aggregates including employment at close to t+60 days in 2019.

The compliance of the EU Member States with the legal obligations in the area of national accounts has been carefully monitored. Progress with the expiry of derogations has been presented in the form of an updated "derogation dashboard" at the end of 2017. It will be updated each year and corrective actions ("EU Pilots") may be launched if necessary. Further progress will be closely monitored by Eurostat and communicated to the main policy users. In addition, Eurostat presented a report on outstanding derogations and their justification to the European Parliament and the Council by 1 July 2018 as requested by Article 6 of the ESA 2010 Regulation (COM(2008)506).

In complement to the work on compliance and data validation, Eurostat introduced a framework for quality assessment and significant progress has been achieved in the last year. Referring to Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 (ESA 2010), which specifies that the data covered by that Regulation are subject to the quality criteria set out in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Member States were asked to provide Eurostat with an annual report on the quality of the transmitted data on national and regional accounts. The modalities, structure, periodicity and assessment indicators of the quality reports on data transmitted have been specified in a Commission

⁹ Previously some European expenditure and income aggregates are therefore still produced together with the employment release at T+75 days.

¹⁰ Users with an ECAS login can access the validation handbook via the link:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/ESRNA/ESA+2010+-+Handbook+on+Data+Validation>

Implementing Regulation 2016/2304 of 19 December 2016.¹¹ The reports will be implemented in a staged approach in 2017, 2019 and 2021. The first exercise started in February 2017 with the transmission of quantitative indicators on completeness, timely and consistency from Eurostat that are reviewed by countries as part of their quality reports. Following the formal submission of all country reports by end of May 2017, the review was completed and Eurostat also produced a first summary report on the quality of ESA 2010 data published as technical annex to the first 5-annual report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of ESA 2010 and granted derogations due on 1 July 2018 (COM(2008)506).

Quarterly estimates for disposable income, savings and net lending/net borrowing have been fully integrated within the sector accounts since 2007.

The timeliness of the quarterly sector accounts remains behind the PEEIs target. However, since January 2015, big improvements were achieved for the euro area aggregate by reducing the timeliness from around T+120 to around T+102, and further to around T+94 days in July 2017. An important prerequisite for this achievement has been an earlier first compilation of euro area balance of payments based on national data at T+82, so that the benefits of a reliable euro area T+90 version of the b.o.p./i.i.p. are fully in place at the sector accounts euro area compilation at around T+94. Since July 2017, while the euro area data for households and non-financial corporations has been released at around T+94, the underlying national data is not published at this early stage if there are significant cross-table discrepancies. Also, the government sector is not published until around t+120 due to availability restrictions while GFS data are verified prior to release. The progress achieved in disseminating more detailed information for most of the euro area Member States has been further consolidated and work on the quality of the statistics has continued. Eurostat disseminates regularly a number of key indicators for the household and the non-financial corporations sectors, such as the household savings rate and the non-financial corporations profit share. In 2018 annual key indicators of countries on the household sector (S14) have been released for the first time; previously the household sector was not separately identifiable from non-profit institutions. This work is a major step to emphasizing the households' perspective

¹¹ Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2016/2304 of 19 December 2016 on the modalities, structure, periodicity and assessment indicators of the quality reports on data transmitted pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, available online at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R2304&from=EN>

recommended by the Stiglitz/Sen/Fitoussi Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress.

In the context of the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative, Eurostat, NSIs, the ECB and NCBs made significant progress on the availability of QSA by country for the purpose of the Principal Global Indicators (PGI) website hosted by IMF. Member States supported this major undertaking by transmitting their final publishable QSA data (including quarterly financial accounts based on the relevant ECB Guideline as foreseen by the G-20 initiative).

Quarterly government finance statistics

A new press release on quarterly government debt was issued on 6 February 2012 and has been regularly published since. Since February 2014, Eurostat has published a press release on seasonally adjusted quarterly government surplus/ deficit, replacing the previously published Statistics in Focus. The news release with seasonally adjusted data for the EU and euro area aggregates is complemented by a Statistics Explained page including seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted data for the Member States. Since April 2016, the press release also highlights country data. More countries now provide seasonally and working day adjusted data, bringing the number of countries contributing to the project to 25 (24 EU MS, 2 are under embargo).

For the April 2018 publication Eurostat has continued to publish an explanatory footnote related to Greek quarterly financial accounts for general government due to non-adherence by the Bank of Greece with ESA 2010 rules on a number of different issues. In October 2015, Eurostat therefore decided not to validate and publish ESA table 27 for Greece until the identified issues have been clarified. The data for Greece have been used for the euro area and EU-28 aggregates; however it should be noted that the quality of the published aggregates is somewhat impacted. In addition, Eurostat's capacity to present users with an integrated GFS/ EDP reporting framework and its ability to cross-check information provided in the context of EDP and non-financial accounts has been limited.

Other than this, the quality and coherence with other statistics have seen improvements over the past year. Also disseminated together with the quarterly data are data on intergovernmental lending in the context of the financial crisis that allow for the avoidance of double-counting of the intergovernmental lending and EFSF in the euro area and EU aggregates through consolidation.

An updated and expanded manual on quarterly financial accounts for general government was published in November 2017, and an update of the manual on quarterly non-financial accounts for general government has progressed. Publication of the latter is expected for 2019.

The completeness of historical data has increased since the last transmission, with data for all EU-28 Member States now available from at least 2002Q1 for quarterly non-financial accounts, 2004Q1 for quarterly financial accounts and 2000Q1 for quarterly government debt.

Short-term business statistics

Timeliness, punctuality and data availability of the ESS short-term business statistics (STS) remain at a high level for most of the indicators.

The change of the base year from 2010 to 2015 has been implemented as well as the country weightings of the European aggregates starting from March 2018 (for monthly STS indicators) and from June 2018 (for quarterly STS indicators). Some countries however used the time delay until the end of 2018, allowed for by the STS Regulation, for implementing 2015 as the base year in their national data (in such cases, national data has been simply re-scaled by Eurostat to the new base year 2015).

The quality of the STS PEEIs is under constant scrutiny in the compliance assessment exercises that take place twice a year (1 April and 1 October respectively). In the assessment of April 2018, the STS PEEIs were deemed highly compliant with the ESS legislation in force although the overall compliance decreased slightly from the previous year. All countries are at least partly compliant for all STS indicators, but improvements are still needed for the services producer price indices because six countries do not yet provide SPPIs for a large part of the required service industries.

The legislation of the ESS business statistics, including STS, is currently under review. The European Parliament voted on 23 March 2018 on their amendments ⁽¹²⁾ as regards the Commission's proposal *COM 2017 114 final* of the basic act of the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS) of 6 March 2017⁽¹³⁾, and the Council started the discussions in its working party, aiming at the adoption of the FRIBS basic act by the

¹² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A8-2018-0094+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

¹³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1493888604671&uri=CELEX:52017PC0114>

European Parliament and by the Council. The necessary Commission implementing acts containing the data requirements, definitions and other details have been discussed at technical level and the preparation of the implementing acts has progressed in parallel with the FRIBS basic act in 2018.

In its opinion¹⁴ on FRIBS, the European Central Bank welcomed the Commission's aim of further improving the consistency, quality and harmonisation of European business statistics and has recommended using the opportunity of changing the ESS legislation on short-term business statistics for re-enforcing data requirements related to commercial real estate markets as expressed by the European Systemic Risk Board in its recommendation to close real estate data gaps¹⁵. This could be achieved by extending the current building permits indicators to construction starts, building completions and, furthermore, by investing in data collection on vacancy rates of the commercial real estate objects.

With reference to the upcoming FRIBS, voluntary data collections on additional services indicators have continued in 2018, with the aim to produce and disseminate a new monthly index of services production (ISP), based on turnover and service producer price indices (SPPIs). Eurostat continued disseminating the estimates for monthly European aggregates of services production and complemented them with country results as more data became available since spring 2018. Seven countries are already sending monthly ISP data for a number of service industries and eight other countries provide monthly services turnover and related deflators that allow estimating the monthly services production index for several service industries.

After the approval of the final SDMX data structure definition for all short-term business statistics in November 2016, Eurostat has used the SDMX-ML format in regular data transmissions in 2017 and 2018. It is planned that SDMX-ML will replace GESMES/TS as the only data transmission format for STS. This should improve the possibilities of automated validations of the incoming data and hence streamline and improve the quality of the STS releases. In addition to the automatic structural validation, Eurostat will investigate further the possibilities of implementing automatic content validations for the incoming SDMX-ML files. The purpose of the automatic validations is to streamline and improve the data processing for the European aggregates which are produced under strict time constraints.

¹⁴ https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/pdf/celex_52018ab0001_en_txt.pdf

¹⁵ https://www.esrb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/recommendations/2016/ESRB_2016_14.en.pdf

In addition, Eurostat closely monitors the quality of the STS construction PEEIs, in particular when it comes to large revisions and the lack of coherence between the Index of Production in Construction and quarterly national accounts. For improving the quality of the construction indicators and for decreasing the revisions observed, the work continued in 2018, aiming at the exchange of national compilation methods between the reporting countries and at the preparation of the FRIBS implementation. The participating countries signalled their willingness to introduce changes in the compilation of the IPC, but the results are not immediately visible.

An early-warning system (EWS) was set up in close co-operation between short-term business statistics and national accounts throughout the European statistical system to follow the statistical impact of the restructuring of big multinational enterprise groups within EU Member States and their links within and outside the EU. The EWS is a voluntary system that aims to share information on such restructuring cases in a timely fashion. STS is the first statistical domain to benefit from such exchange of information. For the purpose of the EWS, the European Statistical System (ESS) collaborates closely with the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).

Labour market statistics

Since the 2017 EFC report, no additional Member States have taken over the responsibility of producing and disseminating monthly unemployment data. The dissemination of the monthly unemployment data for Belgium has been suspended between March and September 2017 due to a significant break in time series occurring in the first quarter of 2017. A similar change in methodology was observed in Ireland, although in that case, the break was corrected immediately by the National Statistical Institute of Ireland so that the main aggregates could be published without interruption.

The quality framework for monthly unemployment data was implemented, giving priority to 4 indicators (2 for volatility and 2 for revisions).

Concerning job vacancy statistics, the timeliness of data transmissions was broadly satisfactory. It remains of utmost importance that all Member States fully cover the public sector and small businesses in their quarterly estimates. The Member States who do not cover the public sector or the small business units, namely Denmark, France, Italy and Malta, are encouraged to improve their data coverage. Italy and Malta informed Eurostat that they prepare extending the data coverage to the small business units.

As regards the Labour Cost Index, Greece has finally transmitted timely and consistent data. The delay of Croatia in transmitting Labour Cost indices was reduced to 2 days.

Eurostat's production systems for labour cost indices and levels were reengineered, adopting the SDMX standards and eliminating possible inconsistencies between totals and wage / non-wage components.

Since 2012, the Labour Cost Index has been used in conjunction with benchmark data taken from the Labour Cost Survey (LCS) to derive early annual estimates of the hourly labour costs. In 2018, for the third time, annual labour cost estimates have been published by NACE section, including indicators for annual growth rates and the share of non-wage costs. The timeliness for this publication is similar to the previous years ($t + 3$ months).

With respect to advancing the timeliness of national accounts-based employment indicators, which still remain well behind the target for timeliness, test employment flash estimates for the EU and euro area at $t+30$ and $t+45$ were compiled by a Eurostat Task Force established at the beginning of 2017. Since the quality criteria for euro area and EU $t+45$ employment flash estimates were already fulfilled, and national macro-economic statistics directors committed to continued contributions of national estimates, Eurostat decided to start publishing these estimates already in mid-November 2018. This will advance the estimation of labour input consistent with national accounts by 30 days, reaching the 45 days first publication target for PEEIs originally set by the EFC.

In 2015, and in close cooperation with Eurostat, policy-relevant data gaps in labour market statistics produced by Eurostat have been identified by key users like the European System of Central Banks and Commission user DGs. Most of these data gaps, which have also been discussed with users' representatives in the European Statistical Advisory Committee, have been/are being addressed:

- Concerning the lack of reliable data on geographic labour mobility in the EU and the euro area, it is planned to introduce a new variable on country of previous residence in the LFS under the new Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation (FR). Through the IESS FR, the Commission proposes a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples. The proposed framework Regulation will allow social data to be published faster, as it reduces the transmission deadlines in a number of areas. It will also increase the comparability and coherence of EU social

statistics, by bringing together seven existing household surveys that are currently carried out in the EU and harmonising variables that are common to two or more surveys. This will, in addition, facilitate joint analysis of social phenomena, based on new survey methods. Finally, a richer and broader data set will be put at the users' disposal, thanks to the use of innovative approaches and methods by national statistical authorities and the combination of data from several sources. The IESS FR adopted by the Commission in August 2016, and has been the subject of many rounds of discussions at the Council since then. It would be good if the compromise reached in June 2018 by the Council Presidency and the European Parliament is adopted as soon as possible. The IESS FR is expected to be implemented in 2021.

- Regular quarter-on-quarter flow statistics based on the LFS are now being disseminated for all EU countries (except for Germany as well as aggregate EU, euro area level figures), and work on preparation of year-on-year flow statistics started as well.
- Methodological work to improve quality and comparability of the LFS variable on monthly take home pay from the main job under IESS is still ongoing.
- Seasonal adjustment of labour market statistics: in addition to the monthly unemployment rate and the labour cost index, seasonally adjusted data for the job vacancy rate and for LFS employment and activity data (levels and rates) are now regularly disseminated. The same holds for breakdowns of LFS unemployment data and NEET (young people neither in employment nor in education and training).
- Minimum wages: these data are collected every six months on a voluntary basis. Eurostat has issued this year more precise and comparable estimates for the minimum wage / median earnings ratio, median earnings being derived from the last vintage (2014) of Structure of earnings Survey data.
- In part, the deliverables mentioned above rely on the Framework Regulation Integrating European Social Statistics and its implementing acts in the labour market domain. This will see for the first time dissemination of a monthly unemployment rate under a harmonised European legislative framework.

International trade in goods statistics

The data are provided within the timeliness target.

In relation to the quality of the trade balance indicator, the work on the monitoring of data revisions continues. Less than 1 per cent of revisions received in 2017 were above the thresholds agreed with Member States requiring the pre-announcement of the revision to Eurostat. Around 85% of all the revisions concerned data which were not considered final based on the current Eurostat recommendation to finalise data in October of the year following the reference year.

Work continued on the modernisation of the system of intra-EU trade in goods statistics, the main challenge being the introduction of burden reduction measures while maintaining the necessary quality.

In order to address this challenge and based on the outcome of two complementary ESS.VIP projects (SIMSTAT and REDESIGN), both successfully completed, the ESSC provided in May 2016 a strategic orientation on the key elements of the modernised intra-EU trade in goods statistics.

Subsequent work in 2016 focussed on the elaboration of a proposal for the legal provisions of international trade in goods statistics in the context of the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS) according to this strategic orientation, putting in place the key elements of the modernised intra-EU trade in goods statistics, including the exchange of micro-data.

With a view to the deployment and implementation of the strategic orientation given by the ESSC, a further strand of work was dedicated to the development of the project 'Modernisation of the system of compiling intra-EU trade in goods statistics' (in short, 'Intrastat Modernisation') spanning over the period from 2017 to 2020.

The deployment plan underlying this project is built around nine themes (or work packages).

The work carried out in the context of this project in 2018, will focus on the themes Legislation (preparation of the European legal provisions necessary for the deployment of the modernised intra-EU trade in goods statistics), Micro-data exchange (continuation of deploying an IT system for the micro-data exchange, working in parallel on both the statistical and the IT aspects), Security (continuation of putting in place the measures required by the ESS security framework), and Communication (to inform the stakeholders about the key elements of the modernised system).

Work on extra-EU trade in goods statistics ('Extrastat'), in 2018, will also focus on the preparation of legal provisions for FRIBS. Given the close ties between Intrastat and

Extrastat, this work is being closely coordinated with the work done under the theme Legislation of the Intrastat Modernisation project.

Housing market indicators

The HPI and its breakdown into new and existing dwellings are published on a quarterly basis with a timeliness of 100 days after the reference quarter. The deflated HPI is published in the Scoreboard for the MIP. Data for Greece do not yet fulfil the requirements, work is however in progress. For the time being, Eurostat continues to use the Residential Property Price Index published by the Greek national bank for the MIP exercise.

In May 2016, the quarterly owner-occupied housing price index based on the net acquisition approach was published for the first time. Since then, the index is being published with the same timeliness as the HPI.

In July 2017 the HPI series were re-referenced from 2010=100 to 2015=100, as stipulated in Regulation (EU) no 2016/792¹⁶. The change of reference year caused revisions by 0.1 percentage points to around 5% of previously published rates of change for the HPI because of rounding effects.

Information related to annual house sales data is typically used in the compilation of HPI indices. The HPI/OOH Regulation requires Member States to compile data on housing expenditures in order to obtain related index weights. From this information, an indicator of annual house sales has been derived. At the end of 2015, Eurostat released, for the first time, a house sales index at annual frequency; annual updates have been published since then. At the same time, Eurostat continued financing pilot projects on quarterly indicators for house sales, the required frequency of this indicator. Eurostat is working on further clarifying relevant conceptual and methodological aspects for the house sales indicators. In parallel, transmission protocols were set up in the beginning of 2018 to allow regular collection of available quarterly house sales indicators. The availability of quarterly data will be discussed at the Price Statistics Working Group, in November.

Punctuality has remained at a high level for the indicators on building permits. The compilation of the final results of the building permits indicators still needs to be accelerated in some countries in order to reduce the revisions of the first releases (the revisions, caused

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 2016/792 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 May 2016 on harmonised indices of consumer prices and the house price index, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95, OJ L 135, 24.5.2016.

by timeliness of national administrative data, are the biggest challenge). The exchange of good national practices via an e-Task Force, set up in 2015, is expected to facilitate the quality improvement.

2. HORIZONTAL METHODOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

The main objectives of this work continue to be the harmonisation of principles with regard to seasonal adjustment, revision policy, flash estimates and the construction of business cycle composite indicators. The work is conducted under the framework of the ESS in the form of preparing, endorsing and implementing practice guidelines and handbooks in the aforementioned areas. The work has also been aligned with international initiatives for further development of short term economic statistics such as the Eurostat/UNSD or the G-20 initiatives and is being carried out in close interaction with other organisation, such as the OECD to facilitate the sharing of best practice and knowledge transfer.

Work on the handbook on cyclical composite indicators has been completed. The handbook has been published jointly with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and The Conference Board and is available for download from the Eurostat web page¹⁷. Work on the handbook on rapid estimates was finalised end 2017. The work on seasonal adjustment is ongoing (the handbook on seasonal adjustment was published in May 2018¹⁸). A new version 2.2 of JDemetra+ has been released in July 2017 as software officially recommended for the seasonal and calendar adjustment of official statistics in the EU.

Concerning the follow-up of the joint UNSD-Eurostat initiative in response to the global financial and economic crisis, the glossary on rapid estimates has been finalized and is included in the aforementioned handbook on rapid estimates.

Work on revision analysis is progressing with more analysis included in different quality reports, for example in the Quality report on National and Regional Accounts published in 2018. The vintage database for the PEEIs has been implemented at Eurostat. The vintage database is regularly updated (monthly). Work is progressing to facilitate the extraction of vintages from the database for analysis purposes.

Methodological studies have been undertaken and are still ongoing with the contribution of highly renowned international experts in various methodological areas, such as for example regarding the policy use of indicators on the quality grading of indicators. The existing

¹⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-17-003>

¹⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-18-001>

business cycle clock, a web based application¹⁹, has been replaced by a revised and enhanced version that is made available.

The Commission proposal for the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics (FRIBS) was adopted by the Commission COM (2017)114 in March and has been discussed with the co-legislators during 2017 and 2018. This cross-cutting framework regulation aims to streamline and better integrate international trade in goods and services, structural and short-term business statistics and other business statistics with e.g. common classifications, harmonised definitions of statistical variables and through a network of statistical business registers comprising national business registers and the EuroGroups Register. The key elements are new indicators on the services sector and on globalisation (e.g. introducing the mandatory collection of statistics on global value chains), better analytical value and possibilities for cost-efficient data production given harmonised definitions, improved access to administrative records and the possibility to use new sources. These features facilitate also cutting burden on businesses.

Regarding the latest developments and activities at Eurostat in the context of globalisation, there is ongoing work by EU statisticians. Some of the most significant developments in the area of macroeconomic data include the establishment of the Early Warning System, the GNI MNEs Pilot exercise, and the work on Integrated Global Accounts.

In order to ensure consistency in terms of applied methods, statistical treatment and communication of results across the ESS in case of restructuring events of large multinational enterprise groups (MNEs), the "Early Warning System" (EWS) was established in 2017. It is intended as a clearly structured, but light (non-legislative) procedure based on the voluntary cooperation between national data compilers and Eurostat. The network of national EWS correspondents has started to work on concrete restructuring cases. The EWS is a learning process that will be continuously improved with more experience. So far, 9 restructuring cases have been reported to the EWS. 3 cases have been closed; the other six are still ongoing, i.e. information is being collected from the countries concerned and in some cases from the companies concerned.

The approach for dealing with the Globalisation issue is proceeding with a sample exercise of 25 MNEs cases (the MNEs pilot exercise), elaborated on the basis of the outcome a prior questionnaire on globalisation and other available information. The objective of the MNE

¹⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/bcc/bcc.html>

Pilot Exercise is to achieve by the end of the current GNI verification cycle in December 2019 a reasonable understanding of the reliability of the recording of globalisation issues in GNI data. The MNE Pilot will be run in two phases: the first phase covering 10 MNEs that have already been profiled in 2015-2017. These 10 MNEs will be prioritised to form the first pilot exercises in 2018. A second phase covering the remaining 15 MNEs (4 of them will be profiled in time for this exercise) will run from end 2018 until April 2019.

The project "Integrated Global Accounts and Global Production (IGA)" was launched in 2016 with the overall aim to better capture the impacts of economic globalisation on statistics delivered by the accounting frameworks of national accounts and balance of payments. This provides horizontal support to the more detailed case-by-case approach, which may be seen in the Early Warning System or in the GNI-related approach. The work is currently focusing on issues such as the identification of global producers, improving measurement of manufacturing services, improvement of data quality in external statistics, micro-data linking, and reducing bilateral asymmetries through reconciliation exercise.

3. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

ESS strategic priorities focus on strengthening the partnership and governance within the ESS and on boosting cooperation with European and international organisations involved in producing data for statistical or administrative purposes. To further enhance European statistics and the EU's prominent role in official statistics worldwide, the ESS and the ESCB shall continue to cooperate closely. Participation in common projects with other international organisations to coordinate statistical developments and standard setting, and to avoid overlaps, is a crucial objective.

To make sure that good quality data are available to monitor the enlargement and the revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), measuring how enlargement countries comply with European standards on statistics remains a strategic priority, as well as supporting enlargement and neighbourhood countries alike in their efforts to provide good quality data that meet European standards.

For the ENP East countries, a new regional statistical cooperation programme is becoming available. For the ENP South countries, Eurostat is providing technical advice on implementing the Medstat IV programme. Medstat IV seeks to broaden application of European/international standards in transport, energy, trade, migration, labour market and business statistics, and to deliver improvements in quality management and serving user needs.

Significant progress has been made in closing the data gaps under the **G-20 Data Gaps Initiative** (DGI) during the past seven years.

However, further work was needed, and building on the already achieved progress the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) agreed at their meeting in Ankara in September 2015 to launch a second phase called **DGI-2** with the main objective of “implementing the regular collection of comparable, timely, integrated, high quality, and standardized statistics for policy use.”

The common priority areas for the **DGI-2** across the G-20 economies were identified as: (i) disseminating consistent and comparable Financial Soundness Indicators; (ii) ensuring regular collection of the International Banking Statistics and the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey; (iii) providing consistent securities statistics; (iv) improving the availability of sectoral accounts data; and (v) disseminating timely and comparable general government operations and debt data.

Senior-level officials identified as the main contacts for the **IAG** on the **DGI** are now meeting annually (the latest such meeting was on 30-31 May 2018). The meeting provides for monitoring against specific targets in action plans for DGI-2 recommendations, including “more advanced ambitions” beyond the primary target for each recommendation. The latest meeting reviewed technical work taking place in workshops organised for specific recommendations, of which three were organised in 2018 (on Commercial Property Price Indices, Sector accounts, and Securities statistics).

The **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus**, the third and highest tier of the IMF’s Data Standards Initiatives, went online in February 2015 with data initially from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. In the meantime, seven other EU Member States (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Austria and Finland), as well as Canada and Japan have adhered to the initiative. Fourteen out of the seventeen adherent countries are EU Member States. This success is largely related to the efforts of the ESS and the ESCB to regularly enhance and broaden the base of European economic and financial statistics.

ANNEX 1. PEEIS CURRENT SITUATION

Member States	Consumer Price Indicators*		Quarterly National Accounts				Business Indicators		
	1.1 HICP euro area flash estimate	1.2 HICP	2.1 First GDP (t+30 & t+45 flash) estimates*	2.2 GDP estimate and breakdowns (2017Q4)	2.3 Household and company accounts	2.4 Government finance statistics	3.1 Industrial production	3.2 Industrial producer prices	3.3 Industrial import prices
EU – current release	--	17	30&45 (2017q4)	66	2017q4 120	115	45	37	37
EA – PEEI target/ current release	0/0	17/17	30/30 & 45/45	60/66	90/94(120)*	90/115	40/45	35/37	45/37
Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat	-1	15*	--	2 months	85(3months)	90 (or 91/92)	40(55)	35(50)	45(60)
Belgium	(-2)	11	30	59	85	85	54	30	30*
Bulgaria	--	14	45	60	93	92	38	30	--
Czech Republic	--	11	45	59	88	88	37	18	--
Denmark	--	8	45	59	95	85	37	16	16
Germany	-1	11	45	52	81	81	38	19	26
Estonia	(0)	13	--	59	81	85	30	20	20
Ireland	(-3)	11	--	75*	82	88	40	20	27
Greece	-1	10	(45)	59	82	89	40	30	44
Spain	-2	13	30	59	85	85	39emb	25	34
France	-1	13	30	30	85	85	39	25	25
Croatia	--	12	30	64*	96	90	30	11	--
Italy	0	14	30	61	86	89	40	26	45
Cyprus	0	12	45	67*	85	87	55	30	40
Latvia	0	12	30	59	85	85	37	21	37
Lithuania	-2	11	30	59	85	88	38	11	*
Luxembourg	-1	10	--	80*	85	88	39	25	*
Hungary	--	12	45	60	88	88	38	27	--
Malta	-1	15	--	67*	85	85	34	27	40
Netherlands	(-1)	9	45	45	85	85	37	30	30
Austria	(-1)	13	30	30	85	88	55	30	45
Poland	0	13	45	60	89	89	25	30	--
Portugal	-2	12	45	59	85	87	27	17	--
Romania	--	13	45	59	89	89	40	30	--

Slovenia	0	8	--	59	85	89	40	20	26
Slovakia	0	14	45	59	81	88	41	27	24*
Finland	-1	15	45	59	74	73	39	24	24
Sweden	--	13	--	59	58	59	34	26	26
United Kingdom	--	16	26	53	88	88	39	18	--

Legend: na = not available. -- = not applicable.

"()": confidential data provided for calculation of the EA/EU estimates. "emb": data transmitted under embargo until national release. * = see Notes below. For further information see Notes below.

Member States	Business Indicators					Labour Market Indicators						International trade in goods
	3.4 Production in construction	3.5 Retail trade turnover	3.6 Services turnover	3.7 Services producer prices	4.1 Unemployment rate	4.2.1 Job vacancy rate (flash estimate)	4.2.2 Job vacancy rate	4.3 Employment	4.4 Labour cost index	5.1 International trade in goods balance		
EU – current release	47	34	66	94	30	50	78	74	75	46		
EA – PEEI target/ current release	45/47	30/34	60/66	90/94	30/30	45/50	75/78	45/74	70/75	46/46		
Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat	45(60)	30	60	90	--	45 (MSS with > 3% of EU employees)	70	2 months	70	40		
Belgium	45	27	60	90	4	--	68	59	53	36		
Bulgaria	38	30	30	58	19	--	59	61	58	37		
Czech Republic	37	30	60	36	27	--	44	61	68	33		
Denmark	67	24	45	75	26	--	70	59	66	40		
Germany	38	27	60	87	21	45	45	54	68	39		
Estonia	55	30	60	45	20*	--	68	59	69	40		
Ireland	61	27	65	75	2	--	68	68*	68	40		
Greece	74	(30)	60	89	10*	--	67	59	68	37		
Spain	44	27	54	76	3	44	68	59	68	38		
France	39	27	60	57	23	45	70	59	68	37		
Croatia	58	27emb	58	88	15	--	70	67*	72	38		
Italy	45emb	(27)	60	82	27	43	67	61	67	39		
Cyprus	59	(30)	60	90	2	--	67	68*	53	39		
Latvia	44	27	27	76	22	--	68	59	68	38		
Lithuania	45	27	58	79	17	--	54	59	67	39		
Luxembourg	60	25	59	89	23	--	68	71*	68	38		
Hungary	40	27	58	88	23*	--	65	60	58	39		
Malta	59	25	60	(88)	22	--	70	67*	68	34		
Netherlands	45	(26)	60	75	17	45	45	45	63	38		
Austria	55	32	30	89	27	--	70	59	67	40		
Poland	26	27	59	44	24	44	44	59*	68	38		
Portugal	41	30	44	(79)	26	--	66	59	45	40		

Romania	44	30	44	90	26	44	44	59*	65	38
Slovenia	45	26	60*	49	18	--	70	45	68	39
Slovakia	44	30	45	58	20	--	52	59	66	39
Finland	44	26	45	24	17	--	54	60	68	38
Sweden	34	27	26	39	19	--	54	59	66	28
United Kingdom	40	19	54	43	16*	40	40	52*	64	39

Legend: na = not available. -- = not applicable. "()": confidential data provided for calculation of the EA/EU estimates. "emb": data transmitted under embargo until national release. * = see Notes below. For further information see Notes below.

	Housing Indicators		
Member States	<i>6.1 House Price Index</i>	<i>6.2 House sales</i>	<i>6.3 Building permits</i>
EU – current release	100	na	94
EA – PEEI target/current release	100	90 /na	90 /94
Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat	85	--	90(105)
Belgium	84	na †	89
Bulgaria	91	na †	36
Czech Republic	83	na †	75
Denmark	85	na †	46
Germany	84	na †	75
Estonia	83	na †	57
Ireland	93	na †	76
Greece	na*	na	88
Spain	77	na †	87
France	84	na †	58
Croatia	85	na †	56
Italy	91	na †	88emb
Cyprus	92	na †	69
Latvia	82	na †	52
Lithuania	80	na †	42
Luxembourg	76	na †	163
Hungary	84	na †	68
Malta	85	na	88
Netherlands	85	na †	58
Austria	83	na	89
Poland	90	na	88
Portugal	82	na †	37
Romania	96	na	30
Slovenia	85	na †	19
Slovakia	88	na †	65
Finland	85	na †	83
Sweden	84	na †	79
United Kingdom	71	na †	83

Legend: na = not available. -- = not applicable. "conf": confidential data provided for calculation of the EA/EU estimates. "emb": data transmitted under embargo until national release. * = see Notes below. For further information see Notes below.

Notes:

1.1 HICP euro area flash estimates

Average number of days after the end of the reference month for the period May 2017-April 2018.

1.2 HICP

Average number of days after the end of the reference month for the period May 2017-April 2018.

The legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat for the January indices is 20 days after the end of the reference month, for all other months it is 15 days.

2.1. First GDP (flash) estimates

Eurostat currently publishes two GDP flash estimates for the EU/EA: T+30 preliminary GDP flash estimates, which are mainly based on confidential country data, and T+45 GDP flash estimate based on published country estimates that are also presented in the associated news release. Only 7 EU countries (BE, ES, FR, LV, LT, AT, UK) regularly published t+30 estimates up to 2017Q4 (SE only for Q2) and Italy started to publish t+30 flash estimates since 2018Q1. Other countries (BG, DK, DE, CY, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK) publish t+45 flash estimates. DK published t+45 but Eurostat received data after press release had been sent out. CZ, published t+46 flash. Greece suspended the national publication of its t+45 flash GDP estimate since 2017Q2 but transmitted data for internal use by Eurostat.

2.2 GDP estimates and breakdowns

GDP estimates with breakdowns for the EU/EA are released at around T+65 days each quarter. However, the exact release dates vary slightly each quarter depending on calendar constraints.

The numbers in the table refer to the transmission of 2017 Q4 data which are usually published the next day.

Validation problems and/or embargos can, however, cause some additional delays.

Derogations to transmit all Table 1 Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) data later than t + 2 months (i.e. T+60 days) are still applicable to FI (T+65 days), CY, HR, IE, MT (T+70 days) and LU (T+85.).

Additional derogations have been granted for specific indicators, e.g. D1, D11, D12: PL (T+95 days), RO (T+3 months); for PL the same derogation applies also for B.2g+B.3g, D2 and D3. Geographical breakdowns of exports and imports, according to the granted derogations, have to be transmitted by PL at T+65 days.

2.3. **Quarterly sector accounts (QSA)**

QSA refers here to quarterly non-financial accounts by institutional sectors. 2017Q4 transmission deadline (T+85) for euro area members States was 26 March 2018. 2017Q4, transmission deadline (T+3 months) for non-euro area Member States was 31 March 2018. For Member States whose GDP at current prices is less than 1 % of the corresponding EU total GDP, only data for selected items is compulsory.

Publication of key indicators and selected transactions for the euro area aggregates is around T+94. Complete sector accounts data for the euro area are released around T+120.

2.4 **Quarterly government finance statistics**

The transmission dates indicated represent transmissions due on 31 March 2018, relating to reference quarter 2017Q4. Transmissions are due at T+3 months, except for quarterly financial accounts for general government, where provisional data is due at T+85 days for euro area countries. Actual timeliness depends on the reference quarter, with transmissions due on 31 March being in general later than in other quarters due to the incorporation of annual data. Releases are coordinated for the set of tables comprising quarterly government finance statistics and with EDP data. For this reason, no further improvement in timeliness is feasible in the medium-term. A use of provisional financial accounts data for release is also not feasible due to the high level of revisions in the transmission period.

As an example, the transmission of table 25 is chosen. EU MS transmissions of ESA table 27 and table 28 were all on time or ahead of time.

3.1 **Industrial production**

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 1 month and 10 calendar days; for countries below the 1% threshold of the EU28 value added in NACE Sections B to E, the STS Regulation grants an additional 15 days (with the 2010 weightings, the following countries are entitled to the extra 15 days: BG, EE, HR, CY, LV, LT, LU, MT, SI and SK).

Delays refer to March 2018 data.

3.2 **Industrial producer prices**

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 1 month and 5 calendar days; for countries below the 1% threshold of the EU28 value added in NACE Sections B to E, the STS Regulation grants an additional 15 days (with the 2010 weightings, the following countries are entitled to the extra 15 days: BG, EE, HR, CY, LV, LT, LU, MT, SI and SK).

Delays refer to March 2018 data.

3.3 **Industrial import prices**

This indicator is only required from countries within the euro area. Moreover 9 of those provide only a contribution to the European Sample Scheme and not the full data set.

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 1 month and 15 calendar days; for countries below the 1% threshold of the EU28 value added in NACE Sections B to E, the STS Regulation grants an additional 15 days (with the 2010 weightings, the following countries are entitled to the extra 15 days: BG, EE, HR, CY, LV, LT, LU, MT, SI and SK).

Delays refer to March 2018 data.

3.4 **Production in construction**

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 1 month and 15 calendar days; for countries below the 3% threshold of the EU28 value added in NACE Section F, the STS Regulation grants an additional 15 days (with the 2010 weightings, the following countries are entitled to the extra 15 days: BE, BG, CZ, DK, EE, IE, EL, HR, CY, LV, LT, LU, HU, AT, PL, PT, MT, RO, SI, SK and FI); the periodicity of the data transmissions is quarterly for the smallest Member States. Currently only EE, IE, EL, HR, CY, LV, LT and MT transmit quarterly data.

Delays refer to March 2018 or 2018Q1 data.

3.5 **Retail trade turnover**

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 1 month. Delays refer to March 2018 data.

3.6 **Services turnover**

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 2 months. Delays refer to 2018Q1 or March 2018 data.

SI sent 3 files. First two with 26 days delay and the last one with 60 days delay.

3.7 **Services producer prices**

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 3 months. Delays refer to 2017Q4 data.

4.1 **Unemployment rate**

Average delay for January, February, March 2018 data.

For those MS with an asterisk (*), delays are not comparable with other MS due to differences in sources/methods used for the estimates by Eurostat.

4.2 **Job vacancy rate**

Delay for 2017Q4 data.

Within 70 days after the end of the reference quarter, Member States shall transmit data broken down as specified in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 453/2008, together with the corresponding metadata. Those Member States whose number of employees represents more than 3 % of the European Community total shall transmit the aggregate number of vacancies and occupied posts and the corresponding metadata within 45 days after the end of the reference quarter.

4.3 **Employment**

The estimation of European employment aggregates is produced after T+75 days, when there is almost full data coverage. Some additional GDP aggregates (income and expenditure breakdowns previously released at the same time are now already released with the GDP t+65 estimate. The numbers in the table refer to the transmission of 2017 Q4 data. Validation problems and/or embargos can, however, cause some additional delays. With few exceptions (e.g. DE, LU) data for employment are transmitted in a package with other main aggregates.

4.4 Labour cost index

Delay for 2017Q4 data.

Within 70 days after the end of the reference quarter, Member States shall transmit data broken down as specified in REGULATION (EC) No 450/2003 concerning the labour cost index, together with the corresponding metadata. LCI data are presented in the form of index numbers (current reference year: 2012) and annual and quarterly growth rates (comparison with the previous quarter). Apart from the overall Labour Cost Index, indices are also available for the labour cost components "wages and salaries" and "employers' social security contributions plus taxes paid minus subsidies received by the employer (Labour costs other than wages and salaries)". For the NACE aggregates in the LCI, item and country weights are applied. These are available as shares of 1000, i.e. for item weights, each single weight sums up to 1000 for the total labour costs in a given country for the aggregate B to S. For the country weights, they are given in relation to the total labour costs for the country aggregate.

5.1 International trade in goods balance

Average number of days after the end of the reference month for the period April 2017 to March 2018.

6.1 House Price Index (HPI)

Commission Regulation (93/2013) requires quarterly HPI data within a delay of 85 days.

In Greece, the NSI stopped the HPI production and is setting up a new production system based on cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the National Central Bank.

6.2 House sales

na (only annual data)

6.3 Building permits

Legal date of transmission from MS to Eurostat: 3 months; for countries below the 3% threshold of the EU28 value added in NACE Section F, the STS Regulation grants an additional 15 days (with the 2010 weightings, the following countries are entitled to the extra 15 days: BE, BG, CZ, DK, EE, IE, EL, HR, CY, LV, LT, LU, HU, AT, PL, PT, MT, RO, SI, SK and FI).

Delays refer to 2017Q4 or December 2017 data.

Please note that country derogations may be applicable to some indicators.

ANNEX 2. FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR PEEIS

PEEIs	Main improvements/results achieved from last Status Report (availability, timeliness, quality)	Outstanding issues and near term plans including deadlines
1.1. Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: euro area flash estimate	<p>Expanded dissemination of national flash estimates in Eurostat's database: all-items inflation rates for 15 Member States; all-items index for 13 Member States; special aggregates rates and indices for nine Member States.</p> <p>Flash estimates included in the "First published data" table in the dissemination database in October 2017.</p>	<p>Working with euro area Member States to have national flash estimates (all-items and special aggregates indices and inflation rates) disseminated for all euro area countries.</p> <p>Work on including the national flash estimates figures into the news release.</p>
1.2. Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices	<p>All Member States regularly transmit HICP and HICP-CT at level 5 of the European Classification of Individual Consumption according to purpose (ECOICOP).</p> <p>Publication of European aggregates at 5-digit level ECOICOP in Eurostat's database since April 2018.</p> <p>Calculation and dissemination of contributions to the all-items HICP; replacing the impacts figures in the news release; available down to the 4-digit level ECOICOP in the dissemination database.</p> <p>Dissemination of new aggregates for HICP-administered prices (HICP-AP) since October 2017: HICP-AP energy and HICP-AP non-energy.</p> <p>Publication of the EU27_2019 aggregate (EU all-items inflation rate excluding the United Kingdom) in April 2018.</p> <p>Practical guide on supermarket scanner data published in September 2017.</p>	<p>Calculation of the HICP special aggregates based on the 5-digit level of the ECOICOP and disseminating the aggregates based on the new structure.</p> <p>Calculation and dissemination of contributions to the all-items HICP at the 5-digit level of the ECOICOP.</p> <p>Calculation and dissemination of European aggregates for the HICP-AP.</p> <p>Inclusion of HICP data in reference year 2010 = 100 to the dissemination database.</p> <p>Introduction of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) format for the transmission and structural validation of HICP data.</p> <p>Ongoing methodological work on modernisation of price collection: scanner data, web scraping and GTIN code matching.</p>
2.1. Quarterly National Accounts: First GDP (flash) estimates	<p>The EU/EA t+30 and t+45 flash estimates (including county data in the latter) were successfully published according to the release calendar.</p> <p>The estimates cover usually 90% and 94% of EA19 GDP and 93% and 96% of EU28 GDP at t+30 and t+45 respectively.</p> <p>Revisions between both estimations were limited (i.e. +/- 0.1 percentage points on quarter on quarter growth rates).</p>	<p>The GDP flash estimates published about t+30 and t+45 days are among Eurostat's most downloaded news releases.</p> <p>With respect to users' needs Eurostat encourages more NSIs to advance their national publication of GDP flash estimates to t+30, with the aim to start including national GDP flash estimates in Eurostat's t+30 news release. While Eurostat considers discontinuing the GDP t+45 flash estimate at some stage in its current format with a view of streamlining the releases of national accounts' indicators, users' needs for continued access to country specific flash estimates will however still be ensured in this case.</p> <p>Target deadline: 2019 or 2020.</p>
2.2. Quarterly National Accounts: GDP release with more breakdowns	<p>EA/EU main GDP aggregates from the output and the expenditure side are published at T+65 days and were completed with income, asset and export breakdowns which were previously only published with the employment release at T+75.</p> <p>A regular update of the European main GDP aggregates after about t+100 days was also regularly compiled (for a second year now) to include data received up to 3 months after the reference quarter to improve the coherence of data used for analysis and the forecasting process.</p> <p>A number of countries improved the completeness and timeliness of their data transmissions in 2017, mostly due to expiring derogations end 2017 or to advanced data transmission as compared with expiring date of derogation or assistance with grants programme.</p>	<p>Eurostat started to implement automated data validation and estimation to improve the timeliness of European aggregates. A consolidated estimation of main aggregates including employment after about t+65 and t+100 is considered in relation to the introduction of employment flash estimates is planned for 2019.</p> <p>Some countries still have temporary derogations (mostly on asset breakdowns, income and employment data as well as the provision of back data and the timeliness of their transmissions that expire in 2020).</p> <p>Further progress with the timeliness and completeness of data deliveries will be closely monitored by Eurostat by annual updated derogation dashboard and non-compliance assessment which can lead to the launch of corrective actions (including "EU Pilots").</p> <p>Eurostat is supporting NSIs' work on removing derogations with grants and training courses on seasonal adjustment and temporal disaggregation to countries currently not yet fulfilling the requirement to report seasonally adjusted data.</p> <p>Target deadline for further improving the completeness and timeliness of estimations: 2019 (all derogations expire by 31.12.2019).</p>
2.3. Quarterly National Accounts:	EA/EU releases were successfully published with the agreed timeliness after the ESA2010	The timeliness of the euro area quarterly sector accounts for households and non-financial corporations has been substantially

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Household and Company Accounts	<p>implementation.</p> <p>Since April 2015, Eurostat publishes around T+120 a news release on household real income and consumption per capita. Two news releases for euro area on household saving rate and investment rate and on business investment rate and profit share are published at T+102 as of July 2017 at around T+94 (Against T+120), together with selected transactions of the euro area.</p> <p>Validated countries' data are released all or part of the national key indicators every quarter at around T+94, on top of the European aggregates released around T+120 days.</p> <p>Eurostat publishes countries' seasonally adjusted data for the Member States, transmitted as foreseen in the ESA2010 Transmission Programme as well.</p>	<p>improved from T+120 to T+102 in 2016 and to around T+94 as of July 2017 so that the benefits of a reliable euro area T+90 version of the b.o.p./i.i.p. are fully in place at the sector accounts euro area compilation at around T+94. The underlying national data is not published at this early stage if there are significant cross-table discrepancies. Also, the government sector is not published until around t+120 due to availability restrictions while GFS data are verified prior to release. Other main challenges for quarterly sector accounts data are the implementation of the international data sharing project, further enhancing the quality of the data transmitted (including for inventories), compiling selected seasonally adjusted series at European levels and the consistency among national accounts domains.</p>
2.4. Quarterly National Accounts: Government Finance Statistics	<p>In addition to the publication on Eurostat's database, Eurostat releases on a regular basis the quarterly non-financial and financial data for the government sector in an integrated manner, showing quarterly revenue and expenditure, net lending or borrowing, transactions and stocks of financial assets and liabilities, and quarterly gross debt using a similar template as for annual data. The presentation also includes, from 2009 and 2011 respectively, new data on intergovernmental lending and EFSF in the context of the financial crisis.</p> <p>Eurostat has been publishing a press release on quarterly government debt since February 2012 and a press release on seasonally adjusted quarterly government surplus/ deficit since February 2014, the latter replacing the regular 'Statistics in Focus' on quarterly non-financial accounts for general government. These releases are complemented by Statistics Explained articles, including seasonally adjusted data for general government total revenue, total expenditure and net lending/ net borrowing for EU aggregates and a growing number of countries (currently 20). An indirect approach is chosen at country level. Since April 2016, the press release on seasonally adjusted quarterly deficit includes country data. Availability of country data has increased to data for 25 countries being transmitted.</p> <p>Timeliness of data transmission can be described as satisfactory. Furthermore, over the past year, consistency with data reported under the EDP and overall data quality has continued to be very good. This can be attributed to systematic and extensive feedback to the Member States and their efforts in this respect. Exceptions to this are quarterly financial accounts for general government as supplied by Bank of Greece. This data could not be validated and published since October 2015, due to non-adherence with ESA 2010 rules. Issues related to quarterly government finance statistics are regularly discussed in the GFS TF.</p> <p>The completeness of historical data has increased significantly since the last transmission, with data for all EU-28 Member States now available from at least 2002Q1 for quarterly non-financial accounts, 2004Q1 for quarterly financial accounts and 2000Q1 for quarterly government debt.</p> <p>Eurostat disseminates validated quarterly GFS data to other institutions, including in the context of the IAG recommendations and with agreed bridging to GFSM2014 methodology. Since 2017, dissemination has been enhanced by covering also a pre-filling of the public sector debt questionnaire for</p>	<p>Eurostat and Member States continue to work on extending the coverage of publishable seasonally adjusted data to more Member States. Coverage has been continuously extended, reaching now 24 EU MS, of which the data of two remain under embargo.</p> <p>The transmission of table 25 continues on a voluntary basis and all MSs have delivered on this commitment; in some cases with an extended coverage of indicators (the large majority) and/or subsector data (currently 13 Member States).</p> <p>Objectives are to further improve the overall data quality in line with the preventive approach to EDP reporting (meaning inter alia that quarterly data is examined closely) now taken.</p> <p>A process to update the Manual on quarterly non-financial accounts for general government is on-going. Publication is expected for 2019.</p>

PEEIs	Main improvements/results achieved from last Status Report (availability, timeliness, quality)	Outstanding issues and near term plans including deadlines
	<p>all countries.</p> <p>In November 2017, the updated and extended Manual on quarterly financial accounts for general government was published.</p>	
3.1 Industrial production	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators continued in 2018 according to the 2016 STS working group decision.</p>	<p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p> <p>The extended quality monitoring indicators will be further implemented in 2019 (revision indicators).</p>
3.2 Industrial producer prices for domestic markets	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The requirements of the European sample schemes are being implemented from 2015 to 2018, and will be completed with the change of the base year from 2010 to 2015.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators continued in 2018 according to the 2016 STS working group decision.</p>	<p>The recommendations related to the chain-linking in STS will be incorporated in the forthcoming manual on European Business Statistics (EBS manual).</p> <p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p> <p>The extended quality monitoring indicators will be further implemented in 2019 (revision indicators).</p>
3.3 Industrial import prices	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The requirements of the European sample schemes are being implemented from 2015 to 2018, and will be completed with the change of the base year from 2010 to 2015.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators continued in 2018 according to the 2016 STS working group decision.</p>	<p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p>
3.4 Production in construction	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators continued in 2018 according to the 2016 STS working group decision.</p> <p>The exchange of best practices and national methods to improve the quality of the monthly IPC continued in 2018.</p> <p>Grants were made available to the Member States to implement the FRIBS requirements and for improving the quality of the monthly IPC.</p>	<p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p> <p>The extended quality monitoring indicators will be further implemented in 2019 (revision indicators).</p> <p>The implementation of the FRIBS requirements together with the quality improvement of the monthly IPC will be further supported by the exchange of national methods and by grants.</p>

PEEIs	Main improvements/results achieved from last Status Report (availability, timeliness, quality)	Outstanding issues and near term plans including deadlines
3.5 Retail trade turnover	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators (precision of retail trade turnover) continued in 2018 according to the 2016 STS working group decision.</p>	<p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p> <p>The extended quality monitoring indicators will be further implemented in 2019 (revision indicators).</p>
3.6 Services turnover	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata (particularly of calendar adjusted data); monthly frequency of data transmissions is encouraged.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators continued in 2018 according to the 2016 STS working group decision.</p> <p>A grants scheme continued to support the development and exchange of the future index of services production (ISP, relying on services turnover, SPPIs and other volume information). This improved data availability of services turnover related to additional NACE headings. Some national data were transmitted for the compilation of an ISP on an experimental basis.</p>	<p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p> <p>The extended quality monitoring indicators will be further implemented in 2019 (revision indicators).</p> <p>The development of a monthly index of services production (ISP) is one of the key elements of improving STS statistics also under FRIBS. The national production of new ISPs progressed and more national data were sent to Eurostat. Subsequently, EU and EA aggregates for selected services industries have been disseminated for the first time. Further progress with the dissemination of more services indicators is expected during 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>The work done in this context should also contribute to an improved availability and quality of the two PEEIs: services turnover and services producer prices (SPPI). Additionally, the compilation of a monthly production indicator for all business activities will become feasible (in the medium term and when FRIBS will enter into force).</p>
3.7 Services producer prices	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata. All Member States are at least partly compliant for the services producer prices by transmitting at least 20% of the required time series.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators continued in 2018 according to the 2016 STS working group decision.</p> <p>The ISP (Index of Service Production) project is accompanied by a task force and supported by grant actions (in 2013-2018) to support the development of the future index of services production (ISP, relying on services turnover, SPPIs and other volume information).</p> <p>Improved data availability of SPPIs related to additional NACE headings.</p>	<p>Further improvement of the compliance of the countries that do not yet provide all SPPI time series.</p> <p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p> <p>The development of a monthly index of services production (ISP) is one of the key elements of Eurostat's proposal for the future development of STS. The work done in this context should also contribute to an improved availability and quality of the two PEEIs services turnover and services producer prices (SPPI).</p>
4.1 Unemployment rate	<p>No additional Member States have taken over the responsibility of producing and disseminating monthly unemployment data. The production method for the Monthly Unemployment Rate of Croatia has been changed towards an annual benchmarking, resulting in less volatility and fewer revisions in the series.</p>	<p>The quality framework for monthly unemployment data was implemented, giving priority to 4 indicators (2 for volatility and 2 for revisions).</p>
4.2 Job vacancy rate	<p>All Member States provide seasonally adjusted data for both job vacancies and occupied posts.</p> <p>Eurostat publishes seasonally adjusted data for the</p>	<p>It remains of utmost importance that all Member States fully cover the public sector and small businesses in their quarterly estimates.</p> <p>The Member States who do not cover the public sector or the small business units, namely Denmark, France, Italy and Malta,</p>

PEEIs	Main improvements/results achieved from last Status Report (availability, timeliness, quality)	Outstanding issues and near term plans including deadlines
	European aggregates.	are encouraged to improve their data coverage. Italy and Malta informed Eurostat that they prepare extending the data coverage to the small business units.
4.3 Employment	<p>Some countries improved coverage and timeliness of employment and population data in 2017 in line with expiring derogations, but some derogations still remain.</p> <p>The estimation of European employment aggregates continues to be produced after T+75 days, when there is almost full data coverage, but preparations for a more automated integrated estimate with GDP aggregates started.</p> <p>Test employment flash estimates were regularly prepared in the context of a task force with a 2 year mandate to investigate whether regular publication of quarterly flash estimates of EU and euro area employment growth rates at 45 or even 30 days after the quarter-end is possible</p>	<p>Since the quality criteria for euro area and EU t+45 employment flash estimates were already fulfilled, and national macro-economic statistics directors committed to continued contributions of national estimates, Eurostat decided to start publishing these estimates already in mid-November 2018.</p> <p>An IT project to better automate and integrate the estimation of European employment aggregates with the regular GDP estimations is ongoing. Consolidation of all Table 1 estimates is envisaged in 2019 after the positive decision to introduce the publication of employment flash estimates.</p> <p>Target deadline: 2019.</p>
4.4 Labour cost index	The system used by Eurostat to produce labour cost indices and levels was reengineered, in line with the new SDMX standards. The new programmes also detect possible inconsistencies between total labour costs and the wage / non-wage components and replace them with the correct values, after informing the country concerned.	The delay of Croatia in transmitting Labour cost indices was reduced to 2 days.
5.1 International trade in goods balance: intra- and extra-euro area; intra- and extra-EU	<p>Availability and timeliness fully meet the requirements.</p> <p>Two complementary ESS.VIP projects (SIMSTAT and REDESIGN) were successfully completed, allowing the ESSC to provide, in May 2016, a strategic orientation on the key elements of the modernised intra-EU trade in goods statistics.</p> <p>Subsequent work in 2016, focussed on the elaboration of a proposal for the legal provisions of international trade in goods statistics in the context of the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS) according to this strategic orientation.</p> <p>With a view to the deployment and implementation of the strategic orientation given by the ESSC, the project 'Modernisation of the system of compiling intra-EU trade in goods statistics' (in short, 'Intrastat Modernisation') spanning over the period from 2017 to 2020, was developed. The deployment plan underlying this project is built around nine themes (or work packages).</p> <p>In 2017, work within the Intrastat Modernisation project focussed on the themes Legislation (contributing further to FRIBS), Micro-data exchange (and the associated theme on confidentiality and security), and Administrative burden.</p>	<p>Quality improvement measures are implemented on a constant basis and monitored to ensure and further enhance the quality of the PEEI, e.g. monitoring of data revisions and their impact on individual Member States' data, promotion of best methods and practices through recommendations or encouragements complementing the legal requirements, methodological discussions to further enhance the harmonisation of compilation practices.</p> <p>In 2018, work within the Intrastat Modernisation project will focus on the themes Legislation (finalising the ITGS legal provisions to be integrated into FRIBS), Micro-data exchange (continuation of deploying an IT system for the micro-data exchange, working in parallel on both the statistical and the IT aspects), Security (continuation of putting in place the measures required by the ESS security framework), and Communication (to inform the stakeholders about the key elements of the modernised system).</p> <p>Work on extra-EU trade in goods statistics ('Extrastat'), in 2018, will also focus on the preparation of legal provisions for FRIBS.</p>

<p>6.1 House Price Index</p>	<p>House Price Indices (HPIs) have been regularly produced and published based on Commission Regulation 93/2013.</p> <p>In July 2017 the HPI series were re-referenced from 2010=100 to 2015=100, as stipulated in Regulation (EU) no 2016/792. The change of reference year caused revisions by 0.1 percentage points to around 5% of previously published rates of change for the HPI because of rounding effects.</p>	<p>Improve timeliness of European aggregates.</p> <p>Target deadline: Improvement by 3 days by the end of 2018, compared to 2015. The target was achieved for the releases in April and October.</p> <p>Eurostat is preparing a collection of additional housing indicators in line with a DGI agreement.</p> <p>Target deadline: 2018.</p>
<p>6.2 House sales</p>	<p>Annual data on housing expenditures have been received from 22 Member States.</p> <p>Since 2015 Eurostat has been publishing a house sales index at annual frequency for 18 countries.</p> <p>Transmission protocols were set up in the beginning of 2018 to allow regular collection of available quarterly house sales indicators. The availability of quarterly data will be discussed at the Price Statistics Working Group, in November.</p>	<p>Eurostat is financing pilot projects by Member States for developing quarterly house sales indicators from this data collection.</p> <p>Further clarification of relevant conceptual and methodological aspects.</p> <p>Target deadline: 2018</p> <p>Publication of available quarterly house sales data is considered for 2019.</p>
<p>6.3 Building permits</p>	<p>Continuous follow-up of timeliness and availability of data and metadata.</p> <p>Rebasing from 2010 to 2015: the new weights were prepared in 2017 and in 2018; the country weights were changed for the first reference period in 2018.</p> <p>Regular data transmissions from Member States to Eurostat in SDMX-ML format were increased in 2018.</p> <p>The implementation of the extended quality monitoring indicators continued according to the 2016 STS working group decision in 2018.</p>	<p>The compilation of administrative data still needs to be accelerated in some countries, in order to publish the final results earlier and to limit the amount of revisions.</p> <p>GESMES/TS should be fully replaced by SDMX-ML by the end of 2018 in all STS data transmissions.</p> <p>Further validation rules of the contents of the SDMX-ML files ("CONVAL") will be tested and implemented in 2018.</p> <p>The extended quality monitoring indicators will be further implemented in 2019 (revision indicators).</p> <p>Investigations into the extensions of building permit indicators to further commercial real estate indicators (construction starts, building completions and vacancy rates) have started in 2018; the possible inclusion into FRIBS remains open.</p>

ANNEX 3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR PEEIS – COORDINATION TOPICS

Coordination topics	Main improvements/results achieved from last Status Report (availability, timeliness, quality)	Outstanding issues and near term plans including deadlines
7. Release and revision policy	Work based on the harmonised revision policy between national accounts and balance of payments statistics formulated by the CMFB completed.	Following a review of the implementation of the CMFB harmonised revision policy, two Task Forces were established in 2016 to take the work forward. A CMFB Task Force was looking into regular revisions, and a DMES Task Force was looking into major (benchmark) revisions. For the benchmark revisions, DMES recommended the year 2019 as a benchmark year while acknowledging that some countries may use another benchmark. There was a common agreement however that the following benchmark year will be 2024. On 13 October 2017, the CMFB published a communication note ²⁰ explaining the key elements of the data revisions. The 3rd quarter is specified as the point in time when all countries are expected to achieve alignment across domains and across frequencies. The CMFB will follow-up on the recommendations of the CMFB TF and a new stock-taking exercise concerning the implementation status will be launched in 2019. Eurostat supports with grants the implementation of the harmonised European revision policy by Member States
8. Seasonal and calendar adjustment	A new version 2.2 of JDemetra+ has been released in April 2018 as software officially recommended for the seasonal and calendar adjustment of official statistics in the EU. More info here: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/releases-jdemetra-version-22-software-officially-recommended-seasonal-and-calendar-adjustment-official-statistics-eu_en Finalisation of a handbook on seasonal adjustment supporting the guidelines, published on May 2018 ²¹ . New Centre of Excellence on Seasonal Adjustment (consortium led by INSEE) started in September 2016 (to run for 3 years).	Publication of the handbook on seasonal adjustment (2018). Publication of the ESS Guidelines on Temporal Disaggregation, Benchmarking and Reconciliation (2018); all versions available at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/task-force-temporal-disaggregation_en
9. Dissemination	Work for the development of the revised version of the business cycle clock has been finalised.	Dissemination of the business cycle clock ongoing.
10. Reliability analysis	Availability of an internal vintage database internally disseminated and regularly updated. Preparation of publications on revision analysis.	Finalisation of foreseen work on revision analysis (2018).
11. Full implementation of ESA 2010 transmission programme (including NACE Rev:2)	Further progress in reaching full implementation of the ESA 2010 transmission programme was reached in line with the expiry of a significant number of derogations in 2017. From the 888 original derogations granted in 2014, 523 expired by 2017. This was monitored with an update of the "derogation dashboard" and the review of the justifications of remaining derogations in 2017. From the remaining 365 derogations which did not expire by 2017, the justification was no longer valid for 98 derogations (27 %) and	23 EU countries have still some derogations for the provision of data under the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme up to 2020. This includes back data for some NACE Rev.2 series. The evaluation of progress with the expiry of derogations using a "derogation dashboard" will be repeated each year and non-compliance will be closely monitored by Eurostat and corrective actions ("EU Pilots") may be launched. As a result of the review of ESA 2010 derogations, the Commission Implementing Decision 2014/403/EU is being

²⁰ <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/370b7c25-142d-40df-8397-248289a03bac/2017-10-13%20-%20CMFB%20Communication%20on%20common%20revision%20policies.pdf>

²¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-18-001>

	<p>have been withdrawn, as the countries in question have closed them and transmitted data ahead of time (in 2017 or before, while the year of first transmission was 2018, 2019 or 2020). For a limited number of derogations (23, or 6 %), the justification is partially valid. This concerns derogations for which the scope can be narrowed, e.g. by deleting variables, shortening the period covered, advancing the year of first transmission, etc. Finally, 244 derogations (67 %) remain unchanged.</p> <p>Eurostat prepared a document on outstanding derogations and their justification included in the report to the European Parliament and the Council by 1 July 2018 as requested by Article 6 of the ESA Regulation (COM(2008)506).</p>	<p>amended in 2018 and it includes a reduction of the number of valid derogations from 365 to 267 and change the description of 23 derogations by limiting the scope.</p>
12. ESA 2010 quality reports	<p>Based on the Commission Implementing Regulation 2016/2304 of 19 December 2016 specifying the modalities, structure, periodicity and assessment indicators of the quality reports which countries have to provide in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 (ESA 2010), Eurostat published the first report on the quality of the transmitted data on national and regional accounts on 17 May 2018. This first ESA 2010 quality report accompanies the review of derogations included in the first 5-annual report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of ESA 2010 and granted derogations due on 1 July 2018 (COM(2008)506).</p>	<p>The second quality review exercise has already started in February 2018 with the provision of quantitative indicators on completeness, timely and consistency from Eurostat to the MS for their review as part of their quality reports. Following the formal submission of all country reports by end of May 2018 Eurostat will update and publish its annual evaluation report.</p> <p>In accordance with the staged implementation of the reporting requirements in 2017, 2019 and 2021, indicators on revisions are currently tested with Member States for implementation in 2019. Eurostat has already raised cross-domain consistency issues with NSIs but selected indicators on this topic will only be added to the regular quantitative indicators reviewed in 2021.</p>
13. Rapid estimates	<p>Finalisation of a glossary and handbooks on rapid estimates and cyclical composite indicators.</p>	<p>After the UNSD global consultation, publication of the Handbook on cyclical composite indicators²² (mid 2017) and of the handbook on rapid estimates²³ (end 2017).</p> <p>Project on big data and macro-economic now-casting: 3 devoted Eurostat Statistical Working papers were published in 2017 and are now available here: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-working-papers/-/KS-TC-16-024?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2F%2Fpublications%2Fstatistical-working-papers) and also at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/publications/statistical-working-papers</p>

²² <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-17-003>

²³ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-17-008>