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Conventions used in this publication:

1. Charts and tables contain data that were current through April 2008. Unless otherwise indicated, data are quarterly.
2. The *percent change* refers to the percent change from the same period in the previous year. For example, the percent change in x between quarter $t-4$ and the current quarter t is: $[(x_t/x_{t-4})-1] \times 100$.
3. All data with significant seasonal patterns are adjusted accordingly.

Due to a new earnings statistics law, the German National Statistical Office has not released hourly earnings data since January 1, 2007. For more information see http://www.destatis.de/jetspeed/portal/cms/Sites/destatis/Internet/EN/Content/Statistics/VerdiensteArbeitskosten/Aktuell__Verdienststatistikgesetz,templateId=renderPrint.psml.

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Cyprus and Malta joined the euro area effective January 1, 2008. The Notes section details the data series that now incorporate Cyprus and Malta.

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