

Explanatory notes

Euro foreign exchange reference rates of the European Central Bank

On 1 January 1999, 11 Member States of the European Union initially adopted the euro as their single currency. On 1 January 2001, Greece joined the euro area, followed by Slovenia on 1 January 2007, Cyprus and Malta on 1 January 2008, Slovakia on 1 January 2009, Estonia on 1 January 2011, Latvia on 1 January 2014, Lithuania on 1 January 2015 and Croatia on 1 January 2023 (for details, see Table I. 1., p. 7).

Since the introduction of the euro, there has been no autonomous foreign exchange market for the currencies replaced by the euro; the euro alone is quoted against non-euro area currencies, such as the US dollar and the Japanese yen.

Since 4 January 1999, the ECB has published euro foreign exchange reference rates for selected currencies each working day. These rates are calculated on the basis of the daily concertation between central banks which takes place at 14:10 CET. Only one reference rate, i. e. the middle rate, is established by this procedure. For information on the framework for the euro foreign exchange reference rates, see the ECB's website: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/pdf/exchange/Frameworkfortheeuroforeignexchangereferencerates.en.pdf?c883afa875c74877fdf4634dcb85688c>.

Effective euro exchange rates

The indices of the nominal effective exchange rates of the euro are designed to measure, in aggregated form, the impact of changes in exchange rates on the price competitiveness of the euro area economy as a whole. They are calculated by the Deutsche Bundesbank on the basis of weighted averages of the bilateral euro exchange rates against the currencies of selected trading partners of the euro area, with Q1 1999 = 100. An increase in the index rate indicates an appreciation of the euro and thus, taken in isolation, a negative impact on the price competitiveness of the domestic economy. The weights are based on the trade in manufactured goods (Sections 5 to 8 of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)) and services (Extended Balance of Payments Services Classifica-

tion (EBOPS) – Total EBOPS services) and also reflect third-market effects.

The table entitled "Overall trade weights used in the calculation of the effective exchange rates (EER) of the euro" on page 49 shows trading partners' membership of the extended or the broad EER group as well as their percentage weights. To prevent breaks in the time series, the indices of two consecutive weighting periods are chain-linked beyond the end of the preceding period. See the ECB's website for information on the revised trade weights published from July 2020 (<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/pdf/exchange/updatedtradeweights201708202007.pdf?1f184ad85cc2c5ccef05680706893cde>).

The real effective exchange rates of the euro additionally take account of the differences in price movements between the groups of countries under review. If the current price indices for determining the real effective exchange rate based on consumer price indices are not yet available, estimates are used for the calculation.

For further information on the calculation method, see the ECB's methodological notes relating to the daily nominal effective exchange rate of the euro and ECB Occasional Paper No 134 of June 2012, which can be downloaded from the ECB's website (www.ecb.europa.eu).

Indicators of the German economy's price competitiveness

The calculation of indicators of the German economy's price competitiveness is methodically consistent with the ECB's procedure for determining the effective exchange rates of the euro. For more detailed information on methodology and weighting scale, see the website of the Deutsche Bundesbank (<https://www.bundesbank.de/content/796162>).

The indicators are broken down into three groups in Table III. 3. (p. 17).

The group of 27 selected industrialised countries comprises the respective composition of euro area countries (see Table I. 1., p. 7) as well as Canada, Denmark, Japan,

Overall trade weights used in the calculation of the effective exchange rates (EER) of the euro^o

Figures in %

As of September 2023

Trading partner	Calculation period for weights ¹											
	Extended EER group of trading partners						Broad EER group of trading partners					
	1995 to 1997	1998 to 2000	2010 to 2012	2013 to 2015	2016 to 2018	2019 to 2021	1995 to 1997	1998 to 2000	2010 to 2012	2013 to 2015	2016 to 2018	2019 to 2021
	Period of use of weights ¹											
	Up to end of 1997	1998 to 2000 ²	2010 to 2012	2013 to 2015	2016 to 2018	From 2019	Up to end of 1997	1998 to 2000 ²	2010 to 2012	2013 to 2015	2016 to 2018	From 2019
Broad EER group							100	100	100	100	100	100
Extended EER group	100	100	100	100	100	100						
Australia	1.01	0.91	1.15	1.05	1.00	0.93	0.82	0.75	0.90	0.83	0.80	0.75
Bulgaria	0.27	0.31	0.59	0.63	0.66	0.67	0.22	0.26	0.46	0.49	0.53	0.54
Canada	1.86	1.94	1.85	1.81	1.73	1.70	1.52	1.60	1.45	1.42	1.37	1.37
China	4.16	4.88	16.78	17.52	17.38	19.64	3.39	4.02	13.12	13.79	13.83	15.79
Czechia	2.39	2.50	4.30	4.19	4.48	4.42	1.95	2.06	3.36	3.30	3.56	3.55
Denmark	3.17	2.84	2.49	2.39	2.31	2.33	2.59	2.34	1.94	1.88	1.84	1.87
Hong Kong	3.72	3.81	2.96	2.80	2.59	2.40	3.03	3.14	2.32	2.21	2.06	1.93
Hungary	1.64	2.16	2.59	2.66	2.77	2.79	1.33	1.78	2.02	2.09	2.21	2.24
Japan	10.07	9.09	5.87	4.79	4.77	4.55	8.21	7.49	4.59	3.77	3.80	3.66
Korea, Republic of	2.89	2.63	3.26	3.10	3.00	2.99	2.36	2.17	2.54	2.44	2.39	2.40
Norway	1.70	1.59	1.57	1.44	1.23	1.17	1.38	1.31	1.23	1.13	0.98	0.94
Poland	2.60	2.94	5.65	5.86	6.33	6.93	2.12	2.42	4.42	4.61	5.03	5.57
Romania	0.72	0.79	1.87	2.08	2.28	2.27	0.58	0.65	1.46	1.64	1.81	1.83
Singapore	2.42	2.16	2.30	2.13	2.92	3.30	1.97	1.78	1.80	1.68	2.32	2.65
Sweden	5.15	4.87	4.28	4.06	3.82	3.68	4.20	4.01	3.35	3.20	3.04	2.96
Switzerland	9.78	8.54	8.43	8.30	7.85	7.38	7.97	7.04	6.59	6.54	6.25	5.94
United Kingdom	22.99	22.29	15.42	15.63	14.95	12.98	18.74	18.37	12.05	12.31	11.90	10.43
United States	23.46	25.75	18.64	19.56	19.93	19.87	19.12	21.21	14.57	15.40	15.86	15.98
Additional countries in the broad EER group												
Algeria							0.37	0.32	0.39	0.39	0.30	0.22
Argentina							0.54	0.50	0.43	0.35	0.32	0.26
Brazil							1.29	1.25	1.57	1.34	1.11	0.98
Chile							0.33	0.30	0.39	0.32	0.28	0.26
China (Taiwan)							1.83	1.89	1.28	1.17	1.21	1.29
Colombia							0.21	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.18	0.16
Iceland							0.07	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.09
India							1.14	1.17	2.63	2.64	2.68	2.90
Indonesia							0.82	0.59	0.62	0.60	0.59	0.53
Israel							1.05	1.04	0.78	0.83	0.87	0.98
Malaysia							1.15	1.01	0.95	0.91	0.85	0.89
Mexico							0.76	1.08	1.11	1.19	1.30	1.26
Morocco							0.54	0.60	0.63	0.65	0.71	0.66
New Zealand							0.17	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.14
Peru							0.14	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.15
Philippines							0.36	0.45	0.32	0.39	0.40	0.37
Russian Federation							2.32	1.77	3.34	3.08	2.53	2.30
Saudi Arabia							0.47	0.43	0.69	0.81	0.75	0.66
South Africa							0.90	0.86	0.86	0.76	0.71	0.65
Thailand							1.14	0.89	0.99	0.99	1.02	0.88
Turkey							2.01	2.10	2.66	2.73	2.60	2.48
Ukraine							0.42	0.36	0.59	0.43	0.38	0.44
United Arab Emirates							0.47	0.50	1.00	1.08	1.21	1.05

^o Weights based on trade in goods and services. Figures have been rounded. In addition, the ECB publishes weighting schemes and indicators for the narrow EER group of trading partners with 12 countries. ¹ Selected calculation periods; for a comprehensive overview, see <https://www.bundesbank.de/en/statistics/exchange-rates/effective-exchange-rates/-/methodology-and-quality-796162>. ² Including the reference period of the indices.

Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The group of 37 countries comprises the euro area countries and the countries of the extended EER group of trading partners; the group of 60 countries consists of the euro area countries as well as the countries of the broad EER group.

■ Overview of world currencies

The end-of-month exchange rates listed in Table IV. 1. (pp. 18-40) are the latest rates known to us at the end of a given month; in general, they have been taken from reliable sources (central bank or a commercial bank in the country in question). However, we do not know whether transactions were actually executed at those rates in all cases. If no exchange rates for euro or US dollar are available from a country, we have calculated comparative values at the exchange rates or parities available and identified them with a "V" in the column "type of rate".

The previous-year average specified in this table was basically calculated from all of the rates or comparable figures available to us.

In addition to the generally accepted currency name, the three-character alphabetical ISO currency code is specified (see Table VII., pp. 46-47). This was developed by the International Organization for Standardization as ISO Standard 4217. This currency code is designed to enable uniformly abbreviated designations for currency-related values to be used in international financial transactions. This applies, *inter alia*, to all external payments under the SWIFT system. The ISO code should not, however, be confused with the official national currency abbreviations.

■ Value of the special drawing right

The value of a SDR (ISO code: XDR) is currently defined as the sum of the values of fixed amounts of five currencies.

The composition of the currency basket as well as the weights and amounts of the currency units in the basket are generally reviewed every five years. As a result of the latest review, conducted in 2022, since 1 August 2022, the SDR basket has contained the fixed currency amounts shown in column (a). These were fixed on 29 July 2022 on the basis of the average exchange rates in the London spot exchange market over the preceding three-month period

(2 May to 29 July, 2022) and the initial new percentage weights (column b) such that, on 29 July 2022, the new SDR value corresponded with the value calculated on the basis of the old basket (see <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/07/29/Review-of-the-Method-of-Valuation-of-the-SDR-Amendment-to-Rule-O-1-521564>).

	(a)	(b)
US dollar	0.57813	43.38
Euro	0.37379	29.31
Chinese yuan (renminbi)	1.0993	12.28
Japanese yen	13.452	7.59
Pound sterling	0.080870	7.44

The above-mentioned currency amounts are converted into US dollar amounts on the basis of the market rates on every business day. In principle, the middle rates between the buying and selling rates fixed at noon in the London spot exchange market are used as market rates. The sum of the US dollar equivalents of the currency amounts yields the value of the SDR expressed in terms of the US dollar. Values of the SDR in terms of all other currencies are ascertained, using the value for the SDR in terms of the US dollar, from the representative market exchange rates of these currencies vis-à-vis the US dollar; for the euro, it is the foreign exchange reference rate of the European Central Bank.

The current criteria for inclusion were adopted by the Executive Board in 2000. They establish that the SDR basket comprises the currencies that are issued by member countries or monetary unions whose exports had the largest value over a five-year period, and have been determined by the IMF to be "freely usable". In the case of a monetary union, exports of goods and services do not cover cross-border trade between the members of the monetary union.

The export criterion, which acts as a "gateway", aims to ensure that currencies that qualify for the basket are those issued by member countries or monetary unions that play a central role in the global economy. This criterion has been part of the SDR methodology since the 1970s.

The requirement for currencies in the SDR basket to be also freely usable is the second criterion, and it was incorporated in 2000 to reflect formally the importance of financial transactions for the purposes of valuing the SDR basket.

A "freely usable" currency is defined in the IMF's Articles of Agreement to mean a currency that the IMF determines is, in fact, widely used to make payments for international

transactions, and is widely traded in the major exchange markets. The concept of a freely usable currency concerns the actual international use and trading of a currency, and is different from whether a currency is either freely floating or fully convertible. A currency can be widely used and widely traded even if it is subject to some capital account restrictions. On the other hand, a currency that is fully convertible is not necessarily widely used and widely traded.

The formula adopted by the IMF for determining currency weights for the SDR basket assigns equal shares to the currency issuer's exports and a composite financial indicator. The financial indicator comprises, in equal shares, official reserves denominated in the member country's (or monetary union's) currency that are held by other monetary authorities that are not issuers of the relevant currency, foreign exchange turnover in the relevant currency, and the sum of all outstanding international bank liabilities and international debt securities denominated in the currency.

The IMF uses the SDR as unit of account for its transactions and for all conversions into national currencies. In addition, the SDR is used by public and private bodies in Germany and abroad, inter alia as the "successor" to those units of account which had hitherto been defined in terms of gold (e. g. gold francs).

Global exchange rate arrangements and monetary policy framework

The overview of the exchange rate arrangements and monetary policy framework as at the end of April 2022 (see Table VI., pp. 44-45) is based on the IMF's "Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions 2022", which can be accessed online (<https://www.elibrary-areaer.imf.org>).

The IMF's classification system is generally based on the actual, de facto exchange rate regimes identified and operating in member countries. These may differ from the official, de jure exchange rate arrangements in these countries.

Exchange rate arrangements are primarily classified on the basis of the degree to which the exchange rate is determined by the market rather than by official action, with market-determined exchange rates being on the whole more flexible. The IMF's system distinguishes between four major categories. The category "hard pegs" (fixed

exchange rate anchors) is subdivided into exchange arrangements with no separate legal tender and currency board arrangements (institutionalised, unilateral exchange rate peg). The category "soft pegs" (less stringent exchange rate anchors) comprises conventional fixed peg arrangements (exchange rate guarantee but no irrevocable parity), stabilised arrangements (exchange rate within a narrow band without any political obligation), crawling pegs (moving central rate without a band), crawl-like arrangements (moving central rate with an annual minimum rate of change) and pegged exchange rates within horizontal bands. The category "floating regimes" (market-determined rates) distinguishes between free-floating rates (intervention in exceptional cases only) and floating rates (more frequent modes of intervention). All other exchange rate arrangements are grouped under the category "residual" (other managed arrangements). The classification system presents members' exchange rate arrangements against alternative monetary policy frameworks in order to highlight the role of the exchange rate in broad economic policy and to illustrate that different exchange rate arrangements can be consistent with similar monetary frameworks.

The monetary policy frameworks listed are as follows.

Exchange rate anchor

The monetary authority buys or sells foreign exchange to maintain the exchange rate at its predetermined level or within a range. The exchange rate thus serves as the nominal anchor or intermediate target of monetary policy. These frameworks are associated with exchange rate arrangements with no separate legal tender, currency board arrangements, pegs (or stabilised arrangements) with or without bands, crawling pegs (or crawl-like arrangements) and other managed arrangements.

Monetary aggregate target

The monetary authority uses its instruments to achieve a target growth rate for a monetary aggregate, such as reserve money, M1 or M2, and the targeted aggregate becomes the nominal anchor or intermediate target of monetary policy.

Inflation-targeting framework

This involves the public announcement of numerical targets for inflation, with an institutional commitment by the monetary authority to achieve these targets, typically over a medium-term horizon. Additional key features normally include increased communication with the public and the markets about the plans and objectives of monetary policymakers and increased accountability of the central bank for achieving its inflation objectives. Monetary policy

decisions are often guided by the deviation of forecasts of future inflation from the announced inflation target, with the inflation forecast acting (implicitly or explicitly) as the intermediate target of monetary policy.

Other

The country has no explicitly stated nominal anchor, but rather monitors various indicators in conducting monetary policy. This category is also used when no relevant information on the country is available.

Explanatory notes on individual countries

Argentina

Capital controls were introduced by decree on 1 September 2019 in response to the escalating financial and sovereign debt crisis.

Since 23 December 2019 (the date on which Law 27541 entered into force), Argentina has been levying a tax (Impuesto Para una Argentina Inclusiva y Solidaria = PAÍS) of 30% on transactions such as the following:

- purchases of foreign currency banknotes and foreign exchange, including travellers' cheques, by Argentine residents;
- the exchange of foreign currency intended for the purchase of goods or services or for the purchase of services abroad;
- foreign transactions with Argentine bank cards.

The Argentine Tax Authority (Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos = AFIP) has been levying additional taxes on the aforementioned transactions since 16 September 2020, which have been raised in several stages – the last time in November 2023 – to a total of no more than 125%. With effect from 13 December 2023, the Argentine peso was devalued and the additional taxes of the AFIP were combined to a uniform tax rate of 30%.

In addition, since 4 November 2022, there has been a separate settlement exchange rate for non-residents making payments on selected foreign credit, debit and prepaid cards for tourism purposes; this rate stood at 1,000 Argentine pesos to the US dollar at the beginning of April 2024.

Bangladesh

Units of account for larger amounts: 1 lakh (in digits: 1,00,000) = 100,000 taka; 1 crore (in digits: 1,00,00,000) = 100 lakh = 10,000,000 taka.

Benin

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo all belong to the West African Economic and Monetary Union (Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine = UEMOA). The responsible monetary authority is the Banque Centrale des États de

l'Afrique de l'Ouest, whose CFA franc (Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine = F.CFA) is legal tender only in the aforementioned countries.

Bhutan

The Indian rupee is likewise legal tender alongside the Bhutanese ngultrum (convertible at par).

Brunei Darussalam

Under an agreement between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, the Singapore dollar (convertible at par) is also accepted as customary tender.

Burkina Faso

See Explanatory notes on Benin.

Cameroon

Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon all belong to the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale = CEMAC). The responsible monetary authority is the Banque des États de l'Afrique Centrale, whose CFA franc (Franc de la Coopération Financière en Afrique Centrale = F.CFA) is legal tender only in the aforementioned countries.

Central African Republic

See Explanatory notes on Cameroon.

Chad

See Explanatory notes on Cameroon.

Congo

See Explanatory notes on Cameroon.

Cook Islands

The New Zealand dollar is also legal tender alongside the Cook Islands dollar (convertible at par).

Côte d'Ivoire

See Explanatory notes on Benin.

Cuba

We have the following information on file about how exchange rates have been applied since 4 August 2022:

Rate for transactions by general government
For all government sector transactions.

Rate for non-government transactions
For all transactions by households and enterprises as well as by the government foreign exchange bureaus (Casas de Cambio = CADECA).

In addition, it is understood that there is a black market where, according to press reports, the exchange rate to the US dollar stood at 340 Cuban pesos at the beginning of April 2024.

The euro is also an accepted form of payment in some tourist locations.

Egypt

The Egyptian pound was devalued on 6 March 2024.
We recorded the following exchange rates (buying/selling):

5 March 2024 USD 1 = EGP 30.75 / 30.85
 EUR 1 = EGP 33.3361 / 33.5525

6 March 2024 USD 1 = EGP 49.50 / 49.60
 EUR 1 = EGP 53.6729 / 54.1037.

Calculated using these exchange rates, the Egyptian pound experienced a devaluation of 37.8% against the US dollar and 37.9% against the euro (each calculated on the basis of the middle rates).

El Salvador

The US dollar is likewise legal tender alongside the El Salvador colón.

Equatorial Guinea

See Explanatory notes on Cameroon.

Eswatini

The South African rand is likewise legal tender alongside the lilangeni (convertible at par).

Gabon

See Explanatory notes on Cameroon.

Guinea-Bissau

See Explanatory notes on Benin.

India

Units of account for larger amounts: 1 lakh (in digits: 1,00,000) = 100,000 rupees; 1 crore (in digits: 1,00,00,000) = 100 lakh = 10,000,000 rupees.

Iran, Islamic Republic of

As we have only incomplete information on the extensive changes and regulations in the multiple exchange rate system, the information provided below on applying exchange rates – valid since 6 August 2018 – is intended merely as a guideline.

Central bank rate
For imports of essential goods (e.g. basic foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals).

NIMA rate (see <https://www.sanarate.ir/Default.aspx>)
For other, non-specified goods imports and services. Access to the electronic platform NIMA is possible only for certain importers as well as exchange bureaus.

Bureau de change rate
Used in addition to the regulated central bank and NIMA exchange rates, including for travelling abroad, tuition fees at foreign universities, medical treatment and legal fees abroad.

The term "toman" (an old Persian currency) is also used to denote 10 Iranian rials.

Kenya

The term "Kenya pound" is a unit of account equivalent to 20 Kenya shillings.

Korea, Democratic People's Republic of

We have no exchange rates for the won as of July 2020.

Lebanon

In February 2024, the exchange rate for the Lebanese pound was changed from USD 1 = LBP 15,000 to USD 1 = LBP 89,500. Based on these rates the Lebanese pound has depreciated by 83.2% against the US dollar.

Lesotho

The South African rand is likewise legal tender alongside the loti (convertible at par).

Liberia

The US dollar is likewise legal tender alongside the Liberian dollar.

Macao

The Hong Kong dollar, to which the pataca is pegged at a rate of HKD 100 = MOP 103, is in circulation as a common currency alongside the pataca.

Mali

See Explanatory notes on Benin.

Namibia

The South African rand is likewise legal tender alongside the Namibia dollar (convertible at par).

New Caledonia

CFP was originally the abbreviation for "Colonies Françaises du Pacifique" and is still used as a currency symbol (in connection with the franc).

Niger

See Explanatory notes on Benin.

Nigeria

It is understood that there are different bureau de change rates alongside the official, published exchange rate.

Panama

The US dollar is legal tender alongside the balboa, which is in circulation exclusively in coin form.

Senegal

See Explanatory notes on Benin.

Singapore

Under an agreement between Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, the Brunei dollar (convertible at par) is also accepted as customary tender.

Somalia

We have no exchange rates for the Somali shilling.

Syrian Arab Republic

It is understood that there are significantly different black market rates alongside the official, published exchange rates.

Togo

See Explanatory notes on Benin.

Turkmenistan

It is understood that there is a considerably different, black market rate alongside the official, published exchange rate.

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates include Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al Qaiwain.

United Kingdom

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, a small volume of banknotes issued by commercial banks in these territories is in circulation alongside notes issued by the Bank of England.

Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

It is understood that there is a considerably different, black market rate alongside the official, published exchange rate.

Yemen

In addition to central bank rates, there are also commercial bank rates, which vary widely from region to region.

Zimbabwe

It is understood that there is a significantly different black market rate alongside the published interbank rate. According to press reports, this rate was around 36,000 Zimbabwe dollar to the US dollar at the beginning of April 2024.