

Europe Flash

Madrid, June 5th, 2013
Economic Analysis

Europe Unit

Miguel Jiménez González-Anleo

Chief Economist

mjimenezg@bbva.com

Agustín García Serrador

Senior Economist

agustin.garcia@bbva.com

Sonia López Senra

Economist

sonia.lopez.senra@bbva.com

Diego Torres Torres

Economist

diego.torres.torres@bbva.com

The economy contracted again in 1Q13

The better performance of private consumption was not enough to compensate the drop in exports

- **GDP contracted by -0.2% q/q in 1Q13, dragged by investment and the fall in exports**

The second GDP estimate by Eurostat confirmed the economic contraction of the eurozone by -0.2% q/q in 1Q13, contrasting to our projected stabilization at the beginning of the year, moderating the decline in activity from the -0.6% q/q in 4Q12 observed. The detailed data show that the quarterly GDP drop was mainly due to a further drop in exports, resulting in a zero contribution of external demand (compared to an average quarterly contribution of 0.3 pp in 2012 and our forecast of 0.2 pp).

The positive news is the slight increase in private consumption in 1Q13 (0.1% q/q after -0.6% q/q in 4Q12), although it is still very weak, which together with the fall in external demand, resulted in a further decline in investment (-1.6% q/q after -1.4% in 4Q12). The ongoing fiscal consolidation in most member states is reflected in a further drop in public consumption (-0.1% q/q). All this led to less negative contribution of domestic demand (-0.2 pp -0.7 pp in 4Q12 after; BBVA Research: -0.1 pp).

- **Our MICA-BBVA model estimates a 0.1% growth in 2Q13**

With the available data for 2Q13, mainly soft data for May, our short-term model MICA-BBVA estimates that the activity may be stabilizing in the current quarter. However, the uncertainty is very high and it is too early to confirm whether the improvement in confidence will be reflected immediately in the activity. In particular, data on retail sales for April (released today) do not anticipate a sustained recovery in private consumption.

- **Downward bias in our GDP growth forecast for the whole 2013**

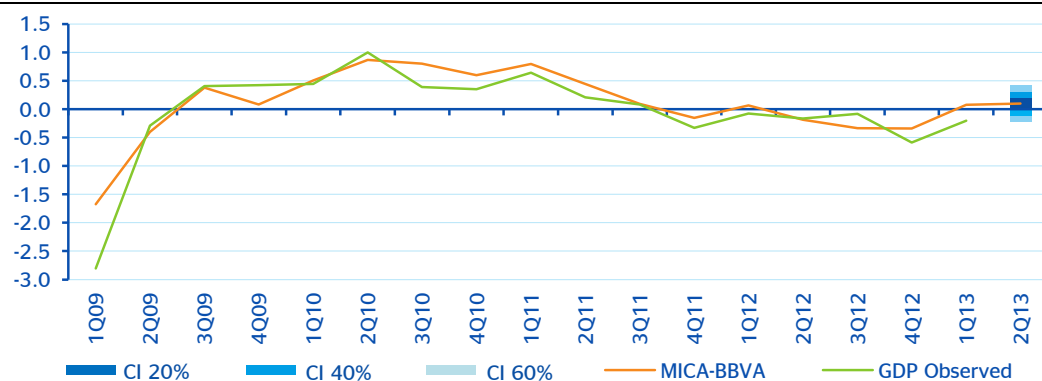
The fall in GDP at the beginning of this year, compared to our forecast of stabilization, suggests that the eurozone economy in 2013 might return to shrink at a rate similar to that observed in 2012 (-0.5% compared to -0.1% for this year according to our baseline scenario), despite the fact that our estimates envisaged a slight growth of the economy in 2Q13 (0.1% q/q) that would gain some traction throughout the second half (0.2% q/q).

Table 1
EMU: Quaterly GDP and components growth (%)

	1Q12	2Q12	3Q12	4Q12	1Q13	
					Observed	BBVA Research
GDP	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.6	-0.2	0.1
Private consumption	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.6	0.1	-0.1
Public consumption	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Investment	-1.4	-1.7	-0.9	-1.4	-1.6	-0.2
Inventories (1)	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Domestic Demand (1)	-0.5	-0.7	-0.4	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1
Exports	0.5	1.6	0.8	-0.9	-0.8	0.7
Imports	-0.4	0.4	0.2	-1.2	-1.1	0.2
External Demand (1)	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2

(1) Contribution to quaterly GDP growth
Source: Eurostat and BBVA Research

Chart 1
EMU: MICA-BBVA and observed GDP (% q/q)



Source: INE and BBVA Research

DISCLAIMER

This document and the information, opinions, estimates and recommendations expressed herein, have been prepared by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A. (hereinafter called "BBVA") to provide its customers with general information regarding the date of issue of the report and are subject to changes without prior notice. BBVA is not liable for giving notice of such changes or for updating the contents hereof.

This document and its contents do not constitute an offer, invitation or solicitation to purchase or subscribe to any securities or other instruments, or to undertake or divest investments. Neither shall this document nor its contents form the basis of any contract, commitment or decision of any kind.

Investors who have access to this document should be aware that the securities, instruments or investments to which it refers may not be appropriate for them due to their specific investment goals, financial positions or risk profiles, as these have not been taken into account to prepare this report. Therefore, investors should make their own investment decisions considering the said circumstances and obtaining such specialized advice as may be necessary. The contents of this document are based upon information available to the public that has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable. However, such information has not been independently verified by BBVA and therefore no warranty, either express or implicit, is given regarding its accuracy, integrity or correctness. BBVA accepts no liability of any type for any direct or indirect losses arising from the use of the document or its contents. Investors should note that the past performance of securities or instruments or the historical results of investments do not guarantee future performance.

The market prices of securities or instruments or the results of investments could fluctuate against the interests of investors. Investors should be aware that they could even face a loss of their investment. Transactions in futures, options and securities or high-yield securities can involve high risks and are not appropriate for every investor. Indeed, in the case of some investments, the potential losses may exceed the amount of initial investment and, in such circumstances; investors may be required to pay more money to support those losses. Thus, before undertaking any transaction with these instruments, investors should be aware of their operation, as well as the rights, liabilities and risks implied by the same and the underlying stocks. Investors should also be aware that secondary markets for the said instruments may be limited or even not exist.

BBVA or any of its affiliates, as well as their respective executives and employees, may have a position in any of the securities or instruments referred to, directly or indirectly, in this document, or in any other related thereto; they may trade for their own account or for third-party account in those securities, provide consulting or other services to the issuer of the aforementioned securities or instruments or to companies related thereto or to their shareholders, executives or employees, or may have interests or perform transactions in those securities or instruments or related investments before or after the publication of this report, to the extent permitted by the applicable law.

BBVA or any of its affiliates' salespeople, traders, and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies to its clients that reflect opinions that are contrary to the opinions expressed herein. Furthermore, BBVA or any of its affiliates' proprietary trading and investing businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed herein. No part of this document may be (i) copied, photocopied or duplicated by any other form or means (ii) redistributed or (iii) quoted, without the prior written consent of BBVA. No part of this report may be copied, conveyed, distributed or furnished to any person or entity in any country (or persons or entities in the same) in which its distribution is prohibited by law. Failure to comply with these restrictions may breach the laws of the relevant jurisdiction.

In the United Kingdom, this document is directed only at persons who (i) have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within article 19(5) of the financial services and markets act 2000 (financial promotion) order 2005 (as amended, the "financial promotion order"), (ii) are persons falling within article 49(2) (a) to (d) ("high net worth companies, unincorporated associations, etc.") Of the financial promotion order, or (iii) are persons to whom an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the financial services and markets act 2000) may otherwise lawfully be communicated (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). This document is directed only at relevant persons and must not be acted on or relied on by persons who are not relevant persons. Any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is available only to relevant persons and will be engaged in only with relevant persons. The remuneration system concerning the analyst/s author/s of this report is based on multiple criteria, including the revenues obtained by BBVA and, indirectly, the results of BBVA Group in the fiscal year, which, in turn, include the results generated by the investment banking business; nevertheless, they do not receive any remuneration based on revenues from any specific transaction in investment banking.

BBVA is not a member of the FINRA and is not subject to the rules of disclosure affecting such members.

"BBVA is subject to the BBVA Group Code of Conduct for Security Market Operations which, among other regulations, includes rules to prevent and avoid conflicts of interests with the ratings given, including information barriers. The BBVA Group Code of Conduct for Security Market Operations is available for reference at the following web site: www.bbva.com / Corporate Governance".

BBVA is a bank supervised by the Bank of Spain and by Spain's Stock Exchange Commission (CNMV), registered with the Bank of Spain with number 0182.