

III quarter 2026

Preliminary estimate of GDP

- In the third quarter of 2026, the seasonally and calendar adjusted, chained volume measure, of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is estimated to have remained unchanged compared with the previous quarter and to have increased by 0.8% year on year. The third quarter of 2026 had four more working days than the previous quarter and one more than the third quarter of 2025.
- The quarter-on-quarter change reflects an increase in value added in the services and agriculture sectors and a decrease in industry. On the demand side, domestic demand (including change in inventories) made a positive contribution, while net foreign demand made a negative contribution.
- The carry-over growth rate for 2026, adjusted for calendar effects, is 0.8%. It should be noted that 2026 has three more working days than 2025.

CHART 1. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Q1 2014 – Q3 2026, seasonally and calendar adjusted indices, chain-linked indices (reference year 2020)

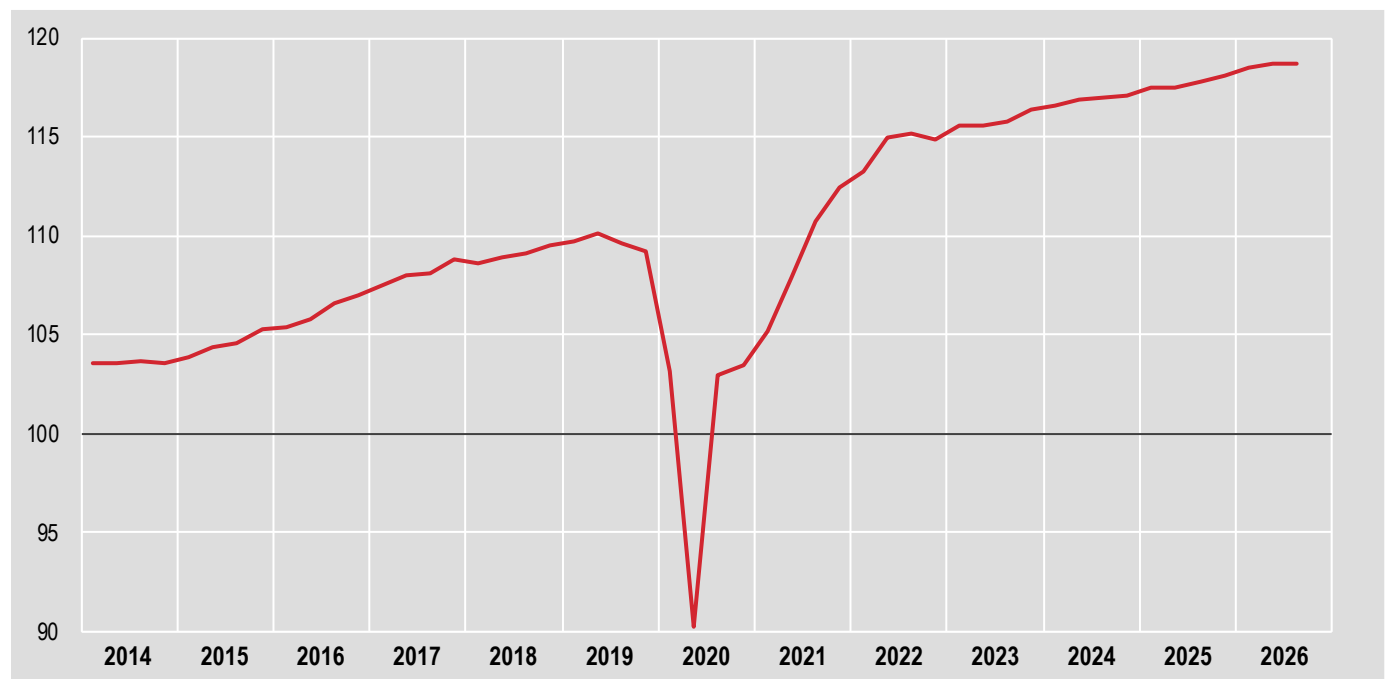


CHART 2. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, QUARTER ON PREVIOUS QUARTER AND ON SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Q1 2019 – Q2 2026, seasonally and calendar adjusted chain-linked values

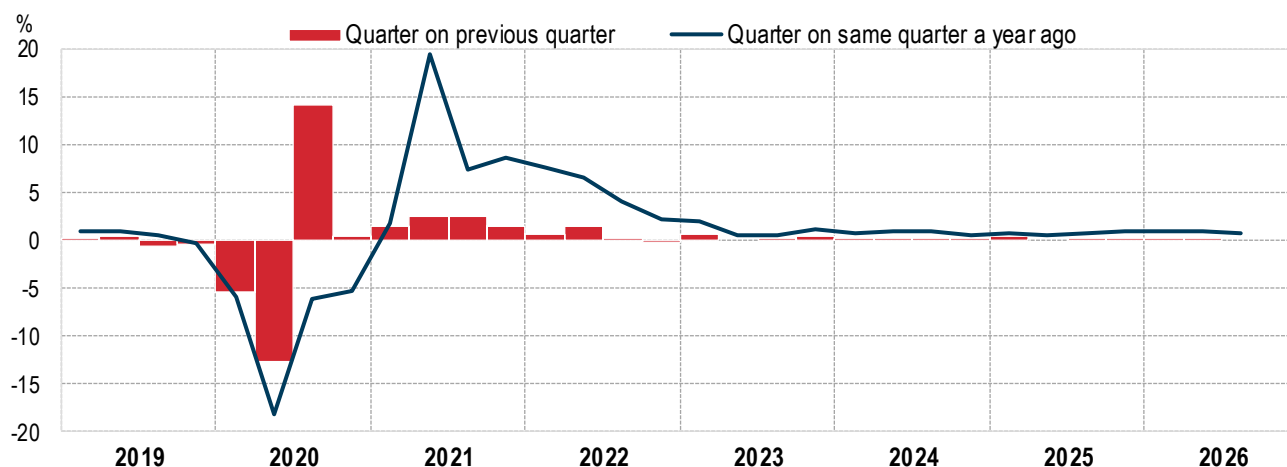


TABLE 1. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, CHAIN LINKED VALUES, QUARTER ON PREVIOUS QUARTER AND ON SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Q1 2022 – Q2 2026 (a), seasonally and calendar adjusted chain linked values in millions of euro (reference year 2020)

Quarter	Millions of Euro (chain-linked)	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
2022 - I	471,457	+0.7	+7.7
2022 - II	478,745	+1.5	+6.6
2022 - III	479,565	+0.2	+4.1
2022 - IV	478,390	-0.2	+2.2
2023 - I	481,317	+0.6	+2.1
2023 - II	481,113	0.0	+0.5
2023 - III	482,112	+0.2	+0.5
2023 - IV	484,556	+0.5	+1.3
2024 - I	485,231	+0.1	+0.8
2024 - II	486,451	+0.3	+1.1
2024 - III	486,952	+0.1	+1.0
2024 - IV	487,330	+0.1	+0.6
2025 - I	489,061	+0.4	+0.8
2025 - II	489,004	0.0	+0.5
2025 - III	490,429	+0.3	+0.7
2025 - IV	491,736	+0.3	+0.9
2026 - I	493,221	+0.3	+0.9
2026 - II	494,027	+0.2	+1.0
2026 - III	494,112	0.0	+0.8

(a) Data are provisional and subject to revisions.

In line with the usual revision policy, today's estimates are revised back starting from first quarter of 2022. The methods used for the preliminary estimate of GDP are the same as those used for the second round of estimation at t+2months, when the full set of quarterly national accounts is published. Partial or total lack of short term indicators at t+30 days involves a larger use of statistical techniques. As a consequence, the preliminary estimate of GDP can be subject to larger revisions than the estimate released after two months from the end of the reference quarter.

TABLE 2. VINTAGES OF QUARTER ON PREVIOUS QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGES OF GDP IN THE LAST PRESS RELEASES. Percentage changes of seasonally and calendar adjusted chain linked values (reference year 2020)

QUARTERS	Today's estimates	Quarterly national accounts 5 October 2026	Quarterly national accounts 1 September 2026.	Preliminary estimate of GDP 30 July 2026
2022 - I	+0.7	+0.7	+0.7	+0.7
2022 - II	+1.5	+1.6	+1.6	+1.6
2022 - III	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
2022 - IV	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
2023 - I	+0.6	+0.6	+0.6	+0.6
2023 - II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2023 - III	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1
2023 - IV	+0.5	+0.5	+0.4	+0.4
2024 - I	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
2024 - II	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2
2024 - III	+0.1	+0.1	0.0	0.0
2024 - IV	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
2025 - I	+0.4	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3
2025 - II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2025 - III	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
2025 - IV	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3
2026 - I	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3
2026 - II	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
2026 - III	0.0	.	.	.

Calendar adjusted data: time series where the calendar effects due to number of working days, Easter holidays (that can fall in different quarters) and the leap year effects are removed in case they are significant.

Carry-over annual growth rate: annual growth rate under the assumption that the quarters of the year which have not been released yet perform a null growth (or in other words that the quarterly levels of GDP in that year remain at the same level as those in the last observed quarter).

Chained linked volume: Chained value estimates measure the volume of national accounts aggregates to reflect economic dynamics net of price changes. Unlike volume measures based on previous-year prices, chained values offer the advantage of forming a homogeneous time series. The main disadvantage is a loss of additivity across the time series, except for the reference year and the year immediately following (the only periods expressed at reference-year prices). Additionally, because chaining cannot be directly performed on variables that shift between positive and negative values, chained series are omitted for items like changes in inventories (P.52) and foreign trade balances; these remain available only at current or previous-year prices. Quarterly chained values can be computed via three methods: annual overlap, over-the-year overlap, and one-quarter overlap. Istat utilizes the recommended "annual overlap" method, which ensures architectural consistency between quarterly and annual data (Eurostat, 2013, Handbook of Quarterly National Accounts, Ch. 6).

Contributions to GDP growth: breakdown of GDP growth in a given quarter by demand (or supply) components for which the the sum of contributions of each sub-component is equal to GDP growth.

Gross domestic product at market prices (Gdp): final outcome of the production activity of resident units. Sum of the values added by all activities producing goods and services, plus taxes less subsidies on products.

Price deflators: ratio of the nominal (or current-price) measure of an economic aggregate to the corresponding real (or chain linked value) measure. It points out the relative part of the nominal growth due to

Seasonal adjusted data: time series where the effects due to seasonal fluctuations are removed. If not alternatively specified, seasonal adjusted data also include the removal of calendar effects. However, in quarterly national accounts we further specify "calendar adjusted data" when the effect is significant.

Quarter on quarter percent changes: changes registered with respect to previous quarter.

Quarter on same quarter a year ago percent changes: changes registered with respect to same quarter of previous year.

Value added at basic prices: difference between output at basic prices and intermediate consumption at market prices. The basic price is the amount received by the producer from the sale of goods and services, net from taxes on products but including subsidies on products.

Preliminary estimate of quarterly GDP: introduction and regulatory framework

The preliminary estimate of quarterly GDP (Gross Domestic Product) derives from the estimation process of quarterly national accounts performed shortly after the end of the reference quarter, when the information for the most recent quarter is still partial and therefore subject to a relatively high degree of approximation. The estimation process is the same as that of quarterly national accounts computed under a full information dataset, but it incorporates simplifying assumptions on extrapolations of some (monthly or quarterly) indicators used within the complete procedure. The GDP estimate is the result of a process that considers the aggregates both at current prices and in volume, as well as both demand and supply components (the latter expressed in terms of value added). However, it is important to note that preliminary estimates and, in general, those relative to most recent quarters (i.e. before annual accounts are finalized) are more solid when computed from the supply side and, therefore, GDP results from the sum of value added by industry of economic activity. The independent estimates computed from the demand side serve as an important cross-check for the overall consistency of the macroeconomic framework. However, the sum of consumption, gross fixed capital formation and net exports, when subtracted from GDP, results in the aggregate "change of inventories and statistical discrepancies" in which the latter component (i.e. discrepancies) prevails.

With preliminary estimates, the dissemination exclusively concerns GDP in chain-linked values with reference year 2020, since the estimates of underlying components are subject to high revision errors, making them not informative to users.

In general, quarterly national accounts adopt principles, definitions and structure of annual accounts, with few exceptions that account for specific features of quarterly estimation. Since the October 2014 edition, methods and sources used in the estimate of quarterly national accounts follow the criteria defined by the European System of national and regional Accounts (ESA 2010), that represents the application, at European level, of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) by the United Nations. The methodological provisions of ESA 2010 are embedded in a Regulation that applies to all member countries of the European union, ensuring comparability among estimates. ESA 2010 was adopted with [Regulation \(EU\) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) and recently modified with the [Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, n. 734/2023](#), that provides a compulsory data transmission program. Concerning both the preliminary estimate of GDP and the full set of quarterly national accounts, the regulation foresees processing and transmission of data, respectively, within 30 days and two months by the end of the reference quarter.

The elaboration is inserted in the [National Statistical Programme](#) (current edition: PSN 2023-2025 – updating 2024-2025), published in Gazzetta Ufficiale supplemento ordinario n.39 - serie generale - n. 266 of 22 December 2025)¹.

Data processing: framework, instruments and techniques

As mentioned above, preliminary GDP estimate results from a specific application of the general procedure of quarterly national accounts in conditions of partial availability of many short-term indicators, that play an essential role in the estimation process. The methods adopted for rapid processing (30 days after the end of the reference quarter) are basically the same as those used in the construction of the complete set of estimates that follow at two months.

In general, quarterly national accounts adopt an indirect method of estimation both for preliminary and final estimates relying on economic indicators that allow overcoming the limitations imposed by reduced availability of direct measures. These methods consist in distributing annual accounts over quarters based on the pattern of quarterly reference indicators. In particular, the technique adopted by Istat produces quarterly estimates on the basis of the relation - identified through an econometric method - between the specific annual accounts aggregate, and the value assumed in the same period by one or more suitable reference indicators. The method is used for estimating quarterly data, both for periods referred to the past - i.e. when the annual value is already known - and for extrapolation - i.e. when the annual information is not yet available. Estimation is carried out separately for all the aggregates defined within the compilation of the accounts.

In general, the series of quarterly national accounts are processed and issued both in unadjusted and adjusted form, with adjustments concerning both calendar and seasonal effects. Moreover, the data is presented at current prices (millions of euros), at prices of previous year and in chain linked values with reference year 2020. The dissemination of preliminary estimates is limited to GDP in chain-linked values seasonally and calendar adjusted. The series is available from the first quarter of 1996.

¹ Only available in Italian.

The adjustment procedure from calendar effects is based on a regression method, taking into account the number of working days, Easter holidays and leap year effects. Both calendar and seasonal adjustment operates over the reference indicators, and it is performed applying the reg-Arima approach within the TRAMO-SEATS procedure (both the versions 942 of 2017 for Linux and the one included into JDemetra+ version 2.x).

For further details see the information note [I Conti economici trimestrali. Principali elementi informativi](#) of October 2024 (in Italian), that presents the indirect method of quarterly disaggregation, a selected list of the main indicators used in the estimates, a summary description of the main variables subject to estimation and the link between accounting schemes and short-term indicators. Moreover, the note outlines estimation methods for value added and double deflation, final uses, labour inputs, income, costs and margins indicators, and the revision policy currently adopted.

The major innovations introduced by the adoption of ESA 2010 are discussed in [I conti trimestrali: innovazioni metodologiche e risultati](#) (in Italian) relative to the presentation provided within the Istat seminar "Adoption of ESA 2010 and the general revision of national accounts" of December 2014.

Information used in the estimate

As shown above, the preliminary estimate of GDP is obtained using the same procedures adopted for the complete set of estimates relative to quarterly national accounts released after two months by the end of the reference period and further revisions.

For each aggregate subject to temporal disaggregation procedure, one or more quarterly and/or monthly indicators are selected in order to reproduce the quarterly pattern of the aggregate. These indicators are the same in both the estimates at 30 and two months after the end of the reference quarter, though the coverage is significantly lower at the first deadline, in many cases. For some indicators, like producer and consumer price indices, data are fully available over the entire quarter at 30 days. In many other cases, two out of three monthly indices are available at 30 days (e.g. part of data of external trade or production in construction) and the third month requires to be extrapolated. Only for industrial production a preliminary estimate of data relative to the third month is carried out by Istat over incomplete information and without publication. For the preliminary estimate, since April 2020, other indicators have been made available like electronic-invoicing provided confidentially to Istat by Agenzia delle Entrate on a monthly time span at around 20 days by the end of the reference month and scanner data (SD) processed by Istat within the statistics of consumer price index. For e-invoicing, Istat receives a daily taxable amount sum-up of most recent years, split by economic activities according to the 2-digits of NACE starting from 2019. For SD, turnover data are available both nominal and in volumes by COICOP groups starting from 2017. Finally, concerning quarterly indicators for which data of the most recent quarter is not available at all, they require to be fully extrapolated by univariate time series models.

Revision policy

Istat adopts a revision policy for quarterly national accounts, that is completely aligned with the European recommendations regarding the cycle of ordinary revisions derived from the normal update of adopted indicators.

The case of extraordinary revisions is somewhat different, as these occur following wider modifications, and affect the entire time series of estimates, as in the case of general revisions of national accounts, carried out to incorporate improvements of sources and methods. Usually, these revisions occur every five years.

The preliminary estimate of GDP reviews the data from the first quarter of four years preceding the release date of the estimated quarter.

Coverage and territorial breakdown

The preliminary GDP estimates, by definition, concern only the entire national territory and are presented without any sector detail.

Timeliness

The preliminary estimate of GDP in chain-linked values is published at approximately 30 days from the end of the reference quarter, following a calendar coordinated at European level.

Dissemination

The time series of the preliminary estimate of GDP is released in the data warehouse [IstatData](#) in the section "[National accounts/Quarterly national accounts](#)" when the press release is available on the website.

For technical and methodological information

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