

Forecasts for the UK Economy

A comparison of independent forecasts

Compiled by Economic Assessment Team

March 2004

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/forecasts



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Please note that Forecasts for the UK Economy is a summary of published material reflecting the views of the forecasting organisations themselves and does not in any way provide new information on the Treasury's own views. It contains only a selection of forecasters, which is subject to review. No significance should be attached to the inclusion or exclusion of any particular forecasting organisation. HM Treasury accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of material published in this comparison.

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Payment of the subscription fee is £75. Cheques should be made payable to "HM Treasury votes cash Account", and should be sent to Claire Coast-Smith, Public Enquiry Unit, 2/S2, HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ. Could fee paying subscribers direct enquiries to Claire Coast-Smith on 0207 270 4558. Free subscribers should contact Alex Tuckett on 020 7270 5404. "Forecasts for the UK Economy' is compiled and coordinated by Alex Tuckett. Please direct enquiries on the contents of this issue to Alex Tuckett (020 7270 5404).

The next edition will be published on 21st April 2004. It will also be available on the Treasury's Internet site: <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk> under 'Economic Data and Tools'.

FORECASTS FOR THE UK ECONOMY
A comparison of independent forecasts, March 2004

This edition of the comparison contains 23 new forecasts, all of which were received between the 25th February and the 8th of March. The tables below summarise the average and range of independent forecasts for 2004 and 2005 and show the average of this month's new forecasts.

Forecasts for 2004	Independent ⁺				Average of new* forecasts
	Averages		March		
	March	February	Lowest	Highest	
GDP growth (per cent)	3.0	2.8	2.4	3.8	3.1
Inflation rate (Q4: per cent)					
- CPI	1.7	1.7	1.2	2.3	1.7
- RPI	3.0	3.0	1.7	4.0	3.2
Claimant unemployment (Q4: mn)	0.89	0.90	0.75	1.09	0.88
Current account (£bn)	-27.3	-27.0	-37.4	-18.0	-27.3
PSNB (2004-05: £bn)	36.0	37.0	28.0	48.0	34.5

Forecasts for 2005	Independent ⁺				Average of new* forecasts
	Averages		March		
	March	February	Lowest	Highest	
GDP growth (per cent)	2.6	2.6	0.4	3.5	2.6
Inflation rate (Q4: per cent)					
- CPI	1.9	1.9	1.2	2.7	1.9
- RPI	2.7	2.7	2.0	3.7	2.8
Claimant unemployment (Q4: mn)	0.89	0.90	0.58	1.20	0.85
Current account (£bn)	-28.3	-28.4	-53.2	-10.0	-28.3
PSNB (2005-06: £bn)	36.9	37.7	24.0	53.0	35.1

+ Independent and City averages, and the range of forecasts, are based on forecasts made in the last three months (March:23 institutions, February: 10 institutions, January: 6 institutions)

*Calculated from new forecasts received for the comparison this month

Note: All the averages exclude non-standard entries (see footnotes a to ss)

Table 1 - 2004: Growth in GDP and its components (% change)

Mar 2004 Comparison

Forecasters & dates of forecasts		GDP	Private Consumption	Government Consumption	Fixed Investment	Change in Inventories (£bn)	Domestic Demand	Total Exports	Total Imports	Net Trade Contribution
City Forecasters										
ABN AMRO	Feb	2.7	3.4	2.3	1.8	6.4	3.1	2.9	4.4	-0.6
Bank of America	Mar *	3.0	3.5	2.4	3.9	1.2	3.5	3.4	4.0	-0.3
Barclays Capital	Mar *	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.9	-0.1	3.4	4.9	5.5	-0.4
Bridgewell	Mar *	2.9	3.5	2.7	4.3	1.0	3.4	3.8	5.4	-0.6
Capital Economics	Mar *	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	0.2	3.0	3.5	3.5	0.0
Citigroup	Mar *	3.5	4.4	2.7	6.7	-0.1	4.3	4.5	7.0	-0.8
Credit Lyonnais	Jan	3.0	2.8	2.8	4.4	2.3	2.9	4.4	4.5	-0.2
Credit Suisse First Boston	Mar *	3.0	3.3	2.8	5.5	0.9	3.5	4.0	5.3	-0.6
Daiwa Institute of Research	Mar *	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.9	5.1	3.3	4.6	4.9	-
Deutsche Bank	Jan	3.0	3.3	3.0	4.1	3.3	3.4	3.9	4.9	-0.5
Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein	Feb	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.3	-	2.7	4.5	4.5	-0.2
Economic Perspectives	Feb	2.5	3.3	4.6	-2.0	0.8	2.5	0.9	1.3	-0.2
Fortis Bank	Mar *	3.4	3.6	3.0	6.6	-	3.8	5.9	6.8	-0.4
Goldman Sachs	Feb	3.2	2.8	2.0	4.1	2.8	2.8	5.2	3.7	0.2
Hermes	Mar *	2.8	3.3	2.6	3.9	0.6	3.2	3.7	4.7	-0.5
HSBC	Feb	2.5	2.1	2.2	3.0	1.1	2.1	1.6	0.8	0.2
ING Financial Markets	Mar *	3.2	3.4	3.3	5.9	10.8	3.6	5.6	7.3	-0.4
ISIS Asset Management plc	Jun	2.2	1.5	4.4	2.8	4.0	2.2	7.7	4.0	0.1
J P Morgan	Mar *	3.8	3.9	3.7	7.2	5.4	4.4	6.6	6.9	-0.4
Lehman Brothers	Mar *	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.9	4.2	3.6	4.6	5.8	-0.6
Lombard Street	Jan	3.0	2.3	3.0	4.0	3.0	2.9	4.0	3.5	0.0
Morgan Stanley	Mar *	3.1	3.0	4.5	5.2	0.3	3.7	3.4	4.7	-0.5
RBSFM	Feb	3.0	2.8	3.3	4.7	3.0	3.2	5.8	6.0	-0.2
Schroders Investment Management	Mar *	2.7	1.8	3.5	4.9	2.3	2.6	3.4	2.7	0.1
Standard Chartered Bank	Mar	3.1	3.4	2.5	5.1	1.4	3.4	2.4	3.5	-0.5
UBS	Mar *	3.2	3.3	2.5	4.2	-1.7	3.1	6.0	5.3	0.0
WestLB AG	Mar *	3.1	3.3	3.5	4.6	0.4	3.6	3.2	4.5	-0.5
Williams de Broe	Mar *	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	4.3	3.9	4.5	7.3	-1.2
Non-City Forecasters										
Cambridge Econometrics	Feb	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.9	0.4	2.6	4.8	4.3	-0.1
CBI	Mar *	3.0	2.6	3.3	3.5	5.9	3.1	4.0	3.9	-0.1
CEBR	Jan	2.4	2.0	3.1	4.2	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.5	-
Economy.com	Mar *	3.6	4.4	2.5	3.5	4.5	4.1	-	-	-
Experian Business Strategies	Mar *	2.7	3.2	2.5	2.0	4.0	3.1	3.8	4.5	-0.4
EIU	Jan	2.5	2.3	3.1	2.4	-	2.6	3.7	4.1	-0.3
Global Insight	Mar *	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.2	-	3.0	3.6	3.3	0.1
ITEM Club	Feb	3.0	2.8	3.3	2.4	0.0	2.8	5.4	3.3	0.1
Liverpool Macro Research	Feb	2.4	2.1 c	4.3 d	2.1 e	-	-	-	-	-
NIESR	Feb	2.7	2.3	2.7	5.2	3.8	2.9	2.7	4.0	-0.5
OEF	Mar *	3.1	2.8	3.3	2.9	4.0	3.0	4.7	4.2	0.0
EC	Nov	2.8	2.2	2.1	4.8	0.4	2.8	5.1	4.7	-0.1
OECD	Jan	2.7	2.4	1.7	4.9	0.3 h	3.0	6.5 eeg	7.0	-0.4
IMF	Sep	2.4	2.1	4.0	2.2	-0.1 h	2.4	3.7 eeg	3.3	-0.1
Average of Forecasts made in the last 3 months										
Independent		3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.6	3.2	4.1	4.6	-0.3
New (marked *)		3.1	3.3	3.1	4.5	2.7	3.5	4.4	5.2	-0.4
City		3.0	3.2	3.1	4.2	2.4	3.3	4.1	4.8	-0.4
Range of Forecasts made in the last 3 months										
Highest		3.8	4.4	4.6	7.2	10.8	4.4	6.6	7.3	0.2
Lowest		2.4	1.8	1.7	-2.0	-1.7	2.1	0.9	0.8	-1.2
Median		3.0	3.1	3.0	4.1	2.3	3.1	4.0	4.5	-0.4
HM Treasury	Dec	3 - 3½	2¼ to 2¾	2½	6 to 6½	¼	3¼ to 3¾	5¼ to 5¾	5¼ to 5¾	-¼

Table 2 - 2004: Growth in prices and monetary indicators (% change)

Mar 2004 Comparison

Forecasters & dates of forecasts		CPI (Q4)	RPI (Q4)	RPIX (Q4)	Average Earnings	Sterling Index (Q4)	Bank of England Repo Rate (Q4,%)	Oil price (\$)	M4
City Forecasters									
ABN AMRO	Feb	1.7	2.9	2.5	4.5	-	4.00	-	-
Bank of America	Mar *	1.7	-	2.4	3.4	-	4.25	27.5	-
Barclays Capital	Mar *	1.6	3.4	2.6	3.8	104.7	4.67	-	-
Bridgewell	Mar *	2.3	4.0	3.1	4.2	96.8	5.00	-	6.4
Capital Economics	Mar *	1.5	2.6	1.9	3.4	104.7	4.50	21.9	7.1
Citigroup	Mar *	1.8	3.9	2.9	4.4	102.5	4.70	30.0	-
Credit Lyonnais	Jan	1.6	3.1	2.6	4.4	97.0	4.50	27.0	-
Credit Suisse First Boston	Mar *	1.8	2.6	2.3	-	-	4.50	-	-
Daiwa Institute of Research	Mar *	1.5	3.3	2.1	4.1	103.0	4.75	27.8	-
Deutsche Bank	Jan	1.6	2.9	2.4	4.4	101.7	4.25	-	6.2
Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein	Feb	1.7	2.7	2.4	-	-	4.25	-	-
Economic Perspectives	Feb	1.5	1.7	1.8	3.7	105.0	4.25	33.0	6.5
Fortis Bank	Mar *	1.5	-	2.3	4.1	99.0	5.00	-	-
Goldman Sachs	Feb	1.9	-	2.7	4.6	96.0	5.00	25.0	8.0
Hermes	Mar *	2.0	2.9	2.7	4.0	105.0	4.25	-	-
HSBC	Feb	1.8	2.9	2.5	3.3	97.0	4.50	28.0	-
ING Financial Markets	Mar *	1.6	3.3	2.3	4.1	-	4.25	28.0	-
ISIS Asset Management plc	Jun	-	3.0	2.6	4.5	-	4.00	-	-
J P Morgan	Mar *	1.4	-	2.5	-	-	4.50	27.5	-
Lehman Brothers	Mar *	1.9	3.2	2.7	4.0	96.0	4.25	-	-
Lombard Street	Jan	1.8	2.8	2.6	4.3	102.0	4.75	25.0	7.0
Morgan Stanley	Mar *	1.5	3.1	2.4	3.8	102.8 j	4.50 j	-	-
RBSFM	Feb	2.0	3.2	2.5	4.4	100.9	4.67	28.5	-
Schroders Investment Management	Mar *	1.8	3.4	2.6	3.7	-	4.50	-	-
Standard Chartered Bank	Mar	1.9	2.6	2.6	3.8	101.0	5.00	27.0	-
UBS	Mar *	1.6	3.1	2.6	4.0	104.0	4.50	24.5	5.0
WestLB AG	Mar *	1.7	3.0	2.3	3.2	102.0	4.50	28.0	6.0
Williams de Broe	Mar *	1.3	3.0	2.7	3.9	104.4	4.70	30.0	7.5
Non-City Forecasters									
Cambridge Econometrics	Feb	-	2.3 k	2.2 k	4.3 n	100.1 k	4.10 ks	27.3	-
CBI	Mar *	1.7	3.8	2.8	4.0	102.5	4.50	26.7	-
CEBR	Jan	1.2	3.0	2.7	4.6	101.0	4.29	27.3	5.0
Economy.com	Mar *	2.0	2.7	2.7	3.6	106.0	4.75	29.0	7.5
Experian Business Strategies	Mar *	1.3	3.0	2.4	4.5	102.0	4.25	28.3	-
EIU	Jan	1.5	2.9	2.5	4.1	100.7	4.25	22.4	-
Global Insight	Mar *	1.7	2.7	2.6	4.0	-	4.75	-	6.4
ITEM Club	Feb	1.4	3.2	2.3	4.2	99.0	4.40	29.0	6.3
Liverpool Macro Research	Feb	-	-	1.9	3.6	101.5	4.30	-	-
NIESR	Feb	1.8	3.0 k	2.4 k	4.7 r	100.7	4.60 s	27.9 v	-
OEF	Mar *	1.5	3.4	2.1	4.0	103.5	4.50	28.0	7.6
EC	Nov	1.5	2.6 k	2.5 ak	4.4 n	-	-	25.6	-
OECD	Jan	-	-	2.6 k	4.3 n	-	4.40 ks	-	-
IMF	Sep	-	-	2.5	-	-	-	25.5 eeg	-
Average of Forecasts made in the last 3 months									
Independent		1.7	3.0	2.5	4.0	101.4	4.51	27.4	6.6
New (marked *)		1.7	3.2	2.5	3.9	102.2	4.57	27.5	6.7
City		1.7	3.0	2.5	4.0	101.2	4.54	27.4	6.6
Range of Forecasts made in the last 3 months									
Highest		2.3	4.0	3.1	4.6	106.0	5.00	33.0	8.0
Lowest		1.2	1.7	1.8	3.2	96.0	4.00	21.9	5.0
Median		1.7	3.0	2.5	4.0	101.9	4.50	27.6	6.5
HM Treasury	Dec	1½	-	2½	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3 - 2004: Growth in other selected variables (% change)

Mar 2004 Comparison

Forecasters & dates of forecasts		Real Household Disposable Income	Employment	Claimant Unemployment (Q4, millions)	Manufacturing Output	World Trade in Manufactures	Current account (£bn)	PSNB (£bn 2004-05)
City Forecasters								
ABN AMRO	Feb	2.7	0.6	4.95 aa	2.2	-	-32.3	38.2
Bank of America	Mar *	-	-	0.86	1.6	5.0	-22.0	39.5
Barclays Capital	Mar *	2.5	0.3	0.86	2.9	-	-34.7	33.0 cc
Bridgewell	Mar *	2.4	0.3	0.86	1.8	-	-29.6	41.6
Capital Economics	Mar *	1.2	0.5	0.90	2.0	7.0	-20.0	31.0
Citigroup	Mar *	3.8	0.9	0.75	1.0	-	-37.4	41.0
Credit Lyonnais	Jan	-	-	0.83	2.1	6.0	-28.1	31.0
Credit Suisse First Boston	Mar *	-	-	-	-	-	-	37.0
Daiwa Institute of Research	Mar *	3.5	0.7	0.90	-	7.0	-35.4	33.9
Deutsche Bank	Jan	3.0	-	0.85	2.4	-	-23.6	3.1 g
Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein	Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-25.6	41.5
Economic Perspectives	Feb	1.2	0.6	0.95	1.6	7.0	-34.0	48.0
Fortis Bank	Mar *	3.3	1.1	0.83	-	-	-23.0	31.0
Goldman Sachs	Feb	3.5	1.1	0.92	2.8	-	-20.0	33.3
Hermes	Mar *	-	0.2	0.95	-	-	-18.0	-
HSBC	Feb	2.6	0.0	1.02	2.2	-	-23.4	34.0
ING Financial Markets	Mar *	-	-	-	2.8	-	-29.0	37.0 cc
ISIS Asset Management plc	Jun	-	-	1.30	2.4	-	-16.0	-
J P Morgan	Mar *	-	-	-	2.6	-	-21.6	28.0
Lehman Brothers	Mar *	2.2	0.1	0.94	2.3	-	-24.2	38.0
Lombard Street	Jan	2.4	0.5	0.85	-	-	-22.0	36.0
Morgan Stanley	Mar *	3.0	0.7	-	2.0	-	-	36.6
RBSFM	Feb	2.3	0.4	0.92	2.3	6.3	-30.8	38.7
Schroders Investment Management	Mar *	-	-	1.05	3.2	-	-23.7	33.3
Standard Chartered Bank	Mar	2.5	-	0.85	-	-	-28.0	36.0
UBS	Mar *	2.2	0.2	0.92	1.9	-	-26.0	36.0
WestLB AG	Mar *	2.6	0.9	0.83	1.5	7.5	-25.0	34.0
Williams de Broe	Mar *	-	1.5	0.79	1.5	10.4	-35.4	38.9
Non-City Forecasters								
Cambridge Econometrics	Feb	3.3	0.3	1.00 k	2.3	2.7 hh	-22.5	32.1 kcc
CBI	Mar *	2.6	0.9	0.84	3.0	10.3	-24.9	32.5
CEBR	Jan	1.3	0.0	0.97	2.3	-	-28.7	43.1
Economy.com	Mar *	2.5	1.3	0.88	-	-	-	28.0
Experian Business Strategies	Mar *	3.1	0.7	0.87	0.9	6.9	-34.5	28.4
EIU	Jan	2.5	0.2	0.89	1.5	5.5	-28.1	37.1
Global Insight	Mar *	-	0.6	-	2.1	-	-24.7	35.5
ITEM Club	Feb	2.8	1.5	0.82	2.9	6.3	-27.5	37.2
Liverpool Macro Research	Feb	-	-	1.09	-	-	-25.4	26.0 cc
NIESR	Feb	2.2	0.5	0.93 k	1.7	8.4 w	-33.3	38.6
OEF	Mar *	3.2	0.7	0.89	2.0	8.0	-34.6	35.6
EC	Nov	-	0.5	-	2.0	-	-24.0	3.10 ee
OECD	Jan	3.3	0.5	4.90 aa	-	-	-3.5 g	3.2 eeg
IMF	Sep	-	0.5	5.20 aa	-	-	-16.1	2.7 eeg
Average of Forecasts made in the last 3 months								
Independent		2.6	0.6	0.89	2.1	7.2	-27.3	36.0
New (marked *)		2.8	0.7	0.88	2.1	7.8	-27.3	34.5
City		2.6	0.6	0.89	2.1	7.0	-26.9	36.4
Range of Forecasts made in the last 3 months								
Highest		3.8	1.5	1.09	3.2	10.4	-18.0	48.0
Lowest		1.2	0.0	0.75	0.9	5.0	-37.4	28.0
Median		2.6	0.6	0.88	2.1	7.0	-26.0	36.0
HM Treasury	Dec	2¼ to 2¾	-	-	1¾ to 2¼	7¾ w	-29½	31

Table 4 - 2005: Growth in GDP and its components (% change)

Mar 2004 Comparison

Forecasters & dates of forecasts		GDP	Private Consumption	Government Consumption	Fixed Investment	Change in Inventories (€bn)	Domestic Demand	Total Exports	Total Imports	Net Trade Contribution
City Forecasters										
ABN AMRO	Feb	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	4.9	2.6	4.0	4.4	-0.3
Bank of America	Mar *	2.0	1.6	2.0	2.2	0.2	1.9	4.4	3.1	0.2
Barclays Capital	Mar *	3.1	2.9	2.6	4.8	-0.1	3.2	7.6	7.2	-0.2
Bridgwell	Mar *	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.3	1.0	2.2	5.1	4.2	0.1
Capital Economics	Mar *	2.3	1.0	3.5	3.0	0.2	1.9	2.5	1.2	0.4
Citigroup	Mar *	2.8	4.0	2.3	5.9	0.2	4.0	4.5	8.3	-1.2
Credit Lyonnais	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit Suisse First Boston	Mar *	2.8	2.5	2.3	6.0	0.3	3.0	6.0	6.0	-0.3
Daiwa Institute of Research	Mar *	2.4	1.9	3.7	3.0	3.5	2.3	6.6	5.7	-
Deutsche Bank	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein	Feb	2.3	2.0	2.8	2.5	-	2.2	6.3	4.8	0.2
Economic Perspectives	Feb	0.4	1.0	4.4	-3.2	-1.3	0.7	0.6	1.3	-0.2
Fortis Bank	Mar *	2.7	2.4	3.0	3.8	-	2.7	7.4	6.8	0.0
Goldman Sachs	Feb	2.6	2.2	2.0	3.7	4.5	2.6	4.7	4.4	-0.1
Hermes	Mar *	2.2	2.2	1.4	2.6	0.6	2.1	3.6	3.2	0.0
HSBC	Feb	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.7	2.2	2.0	2.9	1.9	0.2
ING Financial Markets	Mar *	3.5	2.8	3.7	7.9	14.6	3.9	8.2	8.9	-0.4
ISIS Asset Management plc	Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
J P Morgan	Mar *	3.0	2.8	3.9	6.4	-3.5	2.8	5.9	4.9	0.1
Lehman Brothers	Mar *	2.6	2.0	2.3	2.6	5.1	2.2	7.5	5.3	0.3
Lombard Street	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morgan Stanley	Mar *	2.5	2.0	4.0	3.9	-0.7	2.7	4.5	4.7	-0.3
RBSFM	Feb	2.7	2.6	3.7	4.0	3.0	3.0	5.8	6.5	-0.4
Schroders Investment Management	Mar *	2.3	1.5	2.5	4.6	1.8	2.2	4.0	3.5	0.0
Standard Chartered Bank	Mar	2.9	1.8	2.4	4.6	0.5	2.3	5.2	2.9	0.5
UBS	Mar *	3.0	2.5	2.5	4.5	-1.7	2.8	5.5	4.5	0.1
WestLB AG	Mar *	2.5	2.2	2.9	3.8	0.4	2.7	3.1	3.4	-0.2
Williams de Broe	Mar *	2.7	2.7	3.2	4.0	4.0	3.0	6.4	6.7	-0.5
Non-City Forecasters										
Cambridge Econometrics	Feb	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.2	0.6	3.1	6.1	6.3	-0.3
CBI	Mar *	2.8	2.2	2.5	4.4	4.2	2.5	5.3	3.9	0.2
CEBR	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economy.com	Mar *	2.8	3.6	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.9	-	-	-
Experian Business Strategies	Mar *	2.4	2.1	2.4	4.0	3.3	2.4	5.4	4.7	-0.1
EIU	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Global Insight	Mar *	2.8	2.3	3.0	3.5	-	2.6	6.0	5.0	0.2
ITEM Club	Feb	3.0	3.1	4.1	3.7	0.0	3.4	7.2	4.2	-0.5
Liverpool Macro Research	Feb	2.2	2.0 c	4.2 d	3.3 e	-	-	-	-	-
NIESR	Feb	2.8	1.6	2.8	3.9	4.9	2.3	7.5	5.5	0.3
OEF	Mar *	2.5	2.3	3.7	3.8	3.2	2.7	6.3	6.4	-0.3
EC	Nov	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OECD	Jan	2.9	2.2	2.4	6.4	0.2 h	3.4	8.0 eeg	8.0	-0.4
IMF	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average of Forecasts made in the last 3 months										
Independent		2.6	2.3	2.9	3.7	2.0	2.6	5.3	4.9	-0.1
New (marked *)		2.6	2.4	2.8	4.1	2.0	2.7	5.6	5.2	-0.1
City		2.5	2.2	2.8	3.7	1.8	2.5	5.1	4.7	-0.1
Range of Forecasts made in the last 3 months										
Highest		3.5	4.0	4.4	7.9	14.6	4.0	8.2	8.9	0.5
Lowest		0.4	1.0	1.4	-3.2	-3.5	0.7	0.6	1.2	-1.2
Median		2.7	2.2	2.7	3.8	1.0	2.6	5.5	4.8	-0.1
HM Treasury	Dec	3 to 3½	2¼ to 2¾	2½	5½ to 6	0	2¾ to 3¼	7 to 7½	5¾ to 6¼	0

Table 5 - 2005: Growth in prices and monetary indicators (% change)

Mar 2004 Comparison

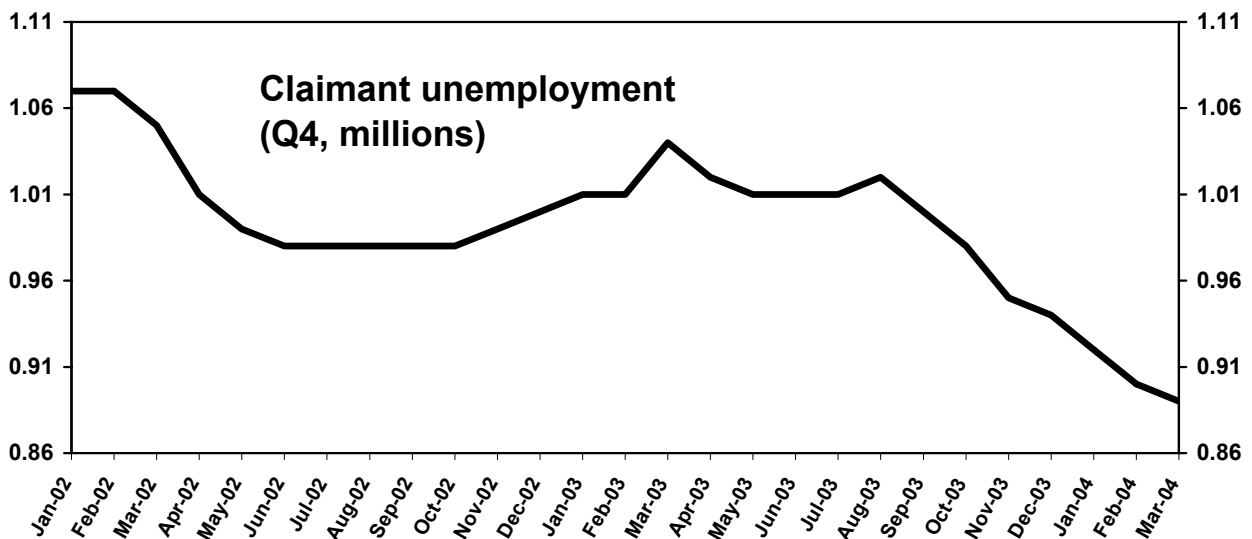
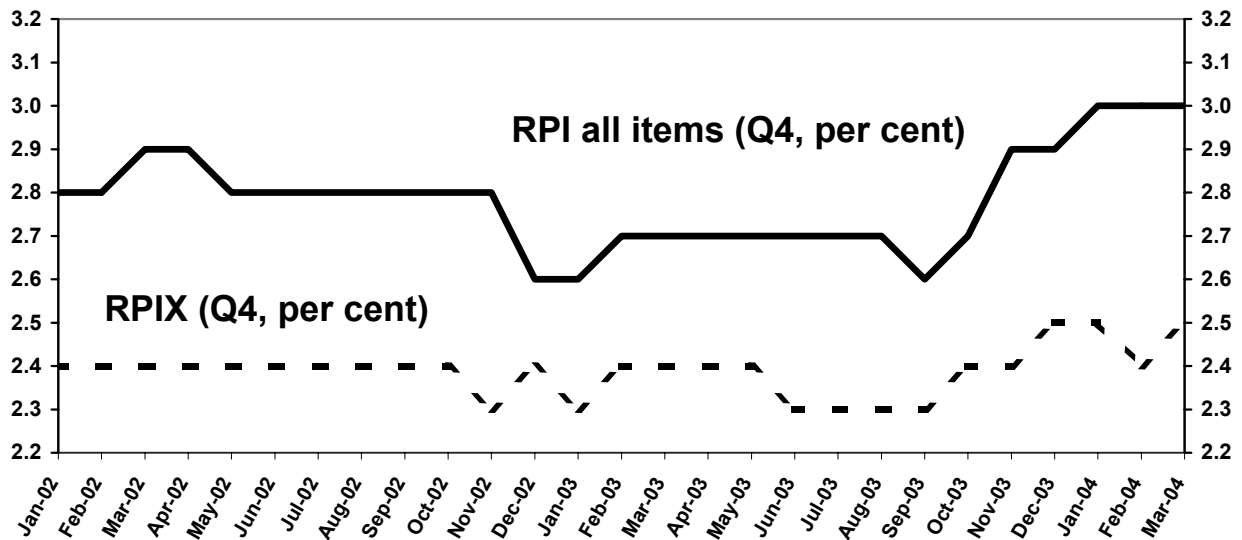
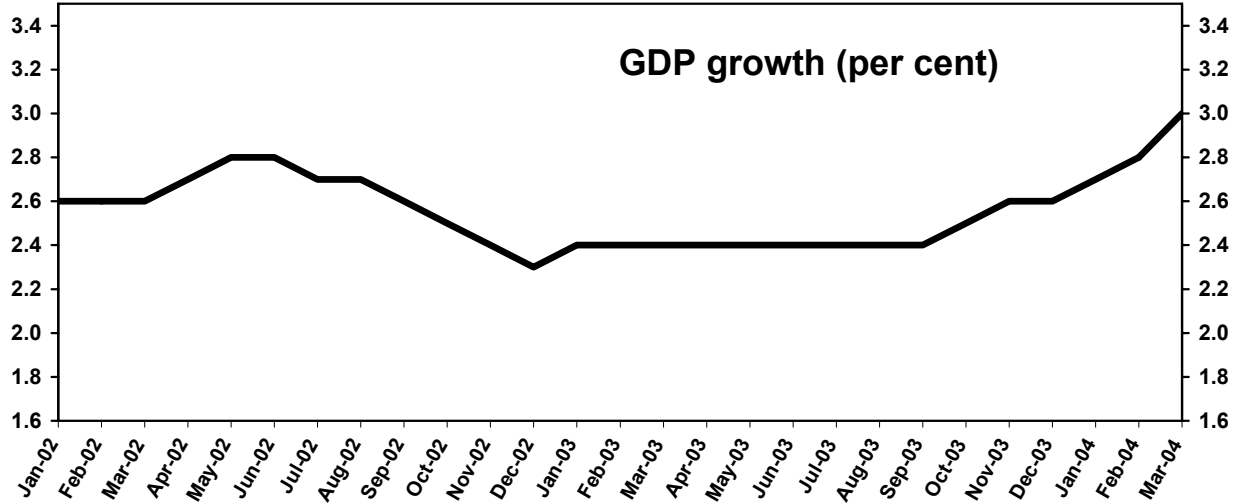
Forecasters & dates of forecasts		CPI (Q4)	RPI (Q4)	RPIX (Q4)	Average Earnings	Sterling Index (Q4)	Bank of England Repo Rate (Q4,%)	Oil price (\$)	M4
City Forecasters									
ABN AMRO	Feb	1.9	2.2	2.3	4.4	-	4.00	-	-
Bank of America	Mar *	1.6	-	-	3.2	-	3.75	27.0	-
Barclays Capital	Mar *	2.0	3.0	2.6	4.7	104.1	5.00	-	-
Bridgewell	Mar *	2.7	3.7	3.5	5.0	96.2	5.50	-	7.2
Capital Economics	Mar *	1.8	2.3	1.9	4.5	95.9	4.50	20.0	6.3
Citigroup	Mar *	1.9	3.7	2.8	4.9	100.4	5.30	30.0	-
Credit Lyonnais	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit Suisse First Boston	Mar *	2.0	3.1	2.7	-	-	5.50	-	-
Daiwa Institute of Research	Mar *	1.8	2.9	2.3	4.4	104.4	5.00	25.9	-
Deutsche Bank	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein	Feb	1.8	2.4	2.4	-	-	4.00	-	-
Economic Perspectives	Feb	1.2	2.2	1.7	3.7	102.0	4.75	36.0	5.5
Fortis Bank	Mar *	2.1	-	2.6	4.5	96.0	5.50	-	-
Goldman Sachs	Feb	2.1	-	2.6	4.5	96.0	5.30	25.0	5.3
Hermes	Mar *	1.6	2.5	2.3	4.0	107.0	4.25	-	-
HSBC	Feb	1.7	2.5	2.3	3.4	95.5	4.00	28.0	-
ING Financial Markets	Mar *	1.7	2.0	1.8	4.2	-	4.50	22.0	-
ISIS Asset Management plc	Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
J P Morgan	Mar *	1.7	-	2.6	-	-	5.00	25.5	-
Lehman Brothers	Mar *	2.0	2.5	2.5	4.3	92.0	4.25	-	-
Lombard Street	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morgan Stanley	Mar *	1.7	2.6	2.4	4.4	100.9 j	4.50 j	-	-
RBSFM	Feb	1.9	2.4	2.5	4.5	99.5	4.50	28.0	-
Schroders Investment Management	Mar *	1.8	2.9	2.5	4.0	-	4.50	-	-
Standard Chartered Bank	Mar	2.2	2.9	2.8	4.0	98.0	5.75	22.0	-
UBS	Mar *	1.8	2.8	2.5	4.5	105.0	4.50	21.5	5.0
WestLB AG	Mar *	1.9	2.5	2.5	3.2	99.0	4.75	26.0	6.0
Williams de Broe	Mar *	2.0	3.4	3.1	4.5	99.7	5.40	30.5	8.3
Non-City Forecasters									
Cambridge Econometrics	Feb	-	3.1 k	2.1 k	4.7 n	102.8 k	5.10 ks	28.7	-
CBI	Mar *	1.7	3.1	2.5	4.1	103.3	5.00	26.3	-
CEBR	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economy.com	Mar *	2.4	2.5	2.4	3.4	102.0	5.75	27.0	6.8
Experian Business Strategies	Mar *	1.6	2.1	2.2	4.6	97.9	4.00	26.4	-
EIU	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Global Insight	Mar *	2.0	3.0	2.7	4.2	-	5.00	-	5.8
ITEM Club	Feb	1.7	2.9	2.5	4.6	96.0	5.00	30.0	7.5
Liverpool Macro Research	Feb	-	-	1.9	4.0	102.3	4.90	-	-
NIESR	Feb	1.9	3.2 k	2.5 k	4.5 r	98.7	5.15 s	26.7 v	-
OEF	Mar *	1.7	2.8	2.2	4.4	105.3	4.80	25.7	8.0
EC	Nov	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OECD	Jan	-	-	2.6 k	4.3 n	-	5.00 ks	-	-
IMF	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average of Forecasts made in the last 3 months									
Independent		1.9	2.7	2.5	4.2	99.8	4.80	26.6	6.5
New (marked *)		1.9	2.8	2.5	4.3	100.3	4.88	25.7	6.7
City		1.9	2.7	2.5	4.2	99.4	4.76	26.2	6.2
Range of Forecasts made in the last 3 months									
Highest		2.7	3.7	3.5	5.0	107.0	5.75	36.0	8.3
Lowest		1.2	2.0	1.7	3.2	92.0	3.75	20.0	5.0
Median		1.8	2.7	2.5	4.4	99.5	4.85	26.4	6.3
HM Treasury	Dec	2	-	2½	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6 - 2005: Growth in other selected variables (% change)

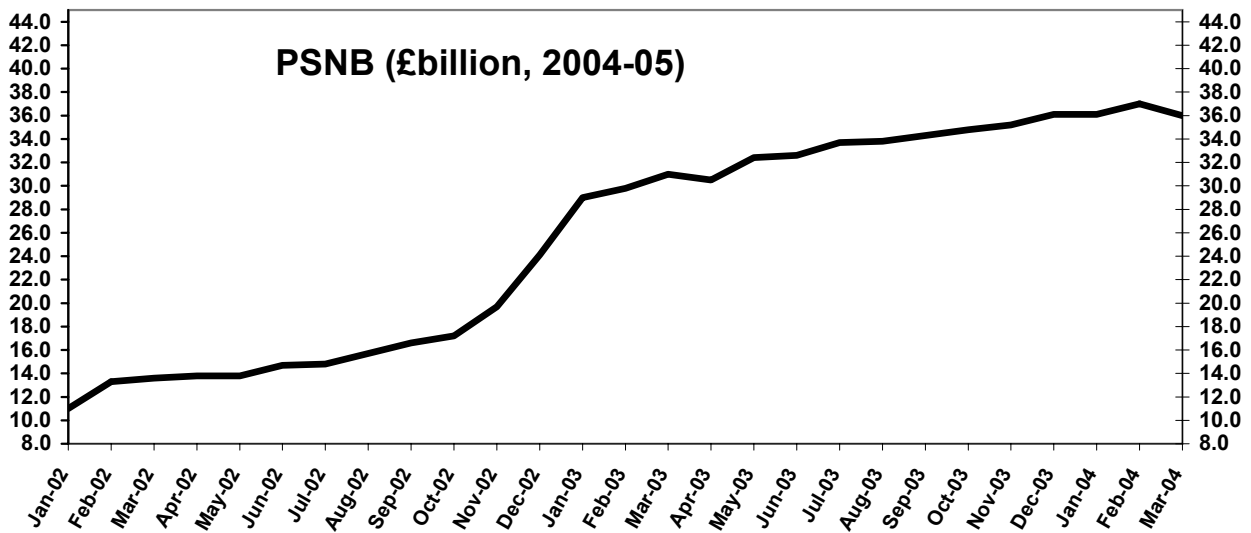
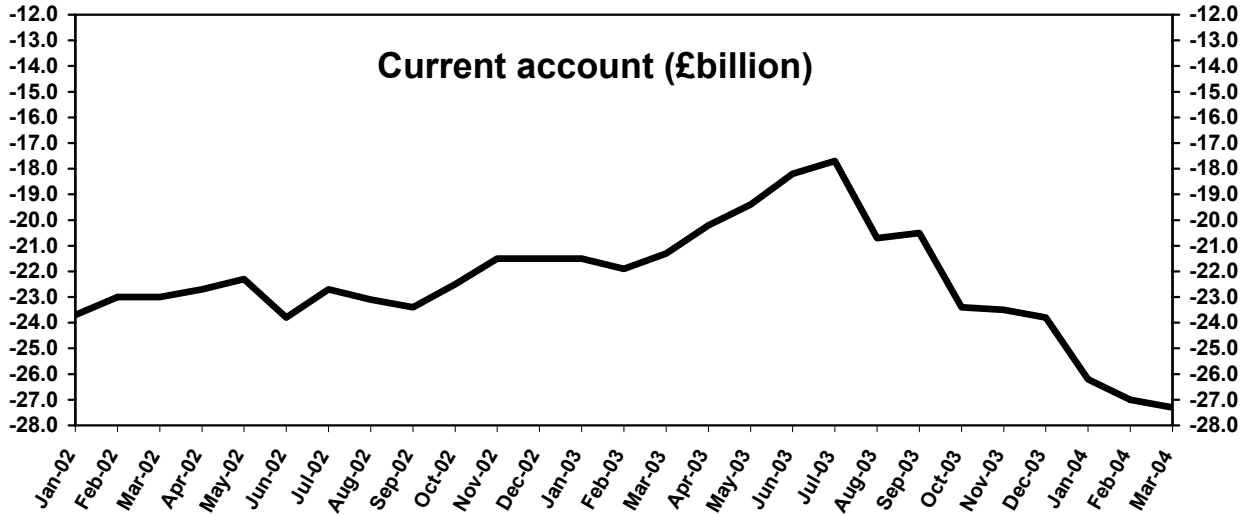
Mar 2004 Comparison

Forecasters & dates of forecasts		Real Household Disposable Income	Employment	Claimant Unemployment (Q4, millions)	Manufacturing Output	World Trade in Manufactures	Current account (£bn)	PSNB (£bn 2005-06)
City Forecasters								
ABN AMRO	Feb	2.6	0.7	5.00 aa	2.8	-	-35.4	38.9
Bank of America	Mar *	-	-	0.89	2.4	5.0	-17.5	45.1
Barclays Capital	Mar *	2.7	0.2	0.81	3.2	-	-38.1	26.0 cc
Bridgewell	Mar *	2.7	0.6	0.83	2.7	-	-32.0	40.8
Capital Economics	Mar *	2.3	0.3	0.80	3.0	6.0	-10.0	30.0
Citigroup	Mar *	3.2	1.2	0.58	1.0	-	-53.2	40.0
Credit Lyonnais	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit Suisse First Boston	Mar *	-	-	-	-	-	-	37.0
Daiwa Institute of Research	Mar *	2.9	0.8	0.88	-	7.7	-38.7	32.7
Deutsche Bank	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein	Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-24.7	39.9
Economic Perspectives	Feb	0.3	-0.5	1.20	0.6	4.0	-30.0	53.0
Fortis Bank	Mar *	2.9	1.1	0.80	-	-	-24.0	31.0
Goldman Sachs	Feb	3.3	1.3	0.94	2.6	-	-21.1	33.2
Hermes	Mar *	-	0.1	0.98	-	-	-12.0	-
HSBC	Feb	3.0	-0.2	-	2.0	-	-23.0	39.0
ING Financial Markets	Mar *	-	-	-	4.0	-	-31.0	35.0 cc
ISIS Asset Management plc	Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
J P Morgan	Mar *	-	-	-	3.2	-	-22.2	24.0
Lehman Brothers	Mar *	2.5	0.8	0.95	1.3	-	-16.5	36.0
Lombard Street	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morgan Stanley	Mar *	2.2	1.1	-	1.9	-	-	37.1
RBSFM	Feb	2.4	0.4	0.95	2.4	5.9	-30.3	40.0
Schroders Investment Management	Mar *	-	-	1.09	3.7	-	-22.5	39.1
Standard Chartered Bank	Mar	2.7	-	0.91	-	-	-21.0	38.0
UBS	Mar *	2.2	0.2	0.92	2.5	-	-22.0	30.0
WestLB AG	Mar *	2.5	0.8	0.80	1.3	6.6	-27.0	32.0
Williams de Broe	Mar *	-	1.4	0.68	2.0	10.5	-45.6	45.2
Non-City Forecasters								
Cambridge Econometrics	Feb	3.9	0.1	1.00 k	2.0	3.1 hh	-20.2	28.0 kcc
CBI	Mar *	2.7	0.5	0.84	2.3	8.0	-25.1	33.3
CEBR	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economy.com	Mar *	2.5	1.3	0.91	-	-	-	28.0
Experian Business Strategies	Mar *	3.1	0.2	0.94	1.8	4.7	-45.0	39.2
EIU	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Global Insight	Mar *	-	0.4	-	2.8	-	-20.7	36.4
ITEM Club	Feb	3.1	1.0	0.78	3.0	7.5	-34.0	37.0
Liverpool Macro Research	Feb	-	-	1.12	-	-	-34.0	28.3 cc
NIESR	Feb	1.7	0.4	0.94 k	2.3	8.2 w	-32.1	42.3
OEF	Mar *	2.9	0.8	0.89	2.6	7.4	-39.0	34.0
EC	Nov	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OECD	Jan	4.7	0.6	4.80 aa	-	-	-3.6 g	-3.2 eeg
IMF	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average of Forecasts made in the last 3 months								
Independent		2.7	0.6	0.89	2.4	6.7	-28.3	36.9
New (marked *)		2.7	0.7	0.85	2.5	7.0	-28.3	35.1
City		2.5	0.6	0.88	2.4	6.5	-27.2	37.2
Range of Forecasts made in the last 3 months								
Highest		4.7	1.4	1.20	4.0	10.5	-10.0	53.0
Lowest		0.3	-0.5	0.58	0.6	4.0	-53.2	24.0
Median		2.7	0.6	0.89	2.4	6.6	-26.1	37.0
HM Treasury	Dec	2¼ to 2¾	-	-	1¾ to 2¼	8 w	-28	30

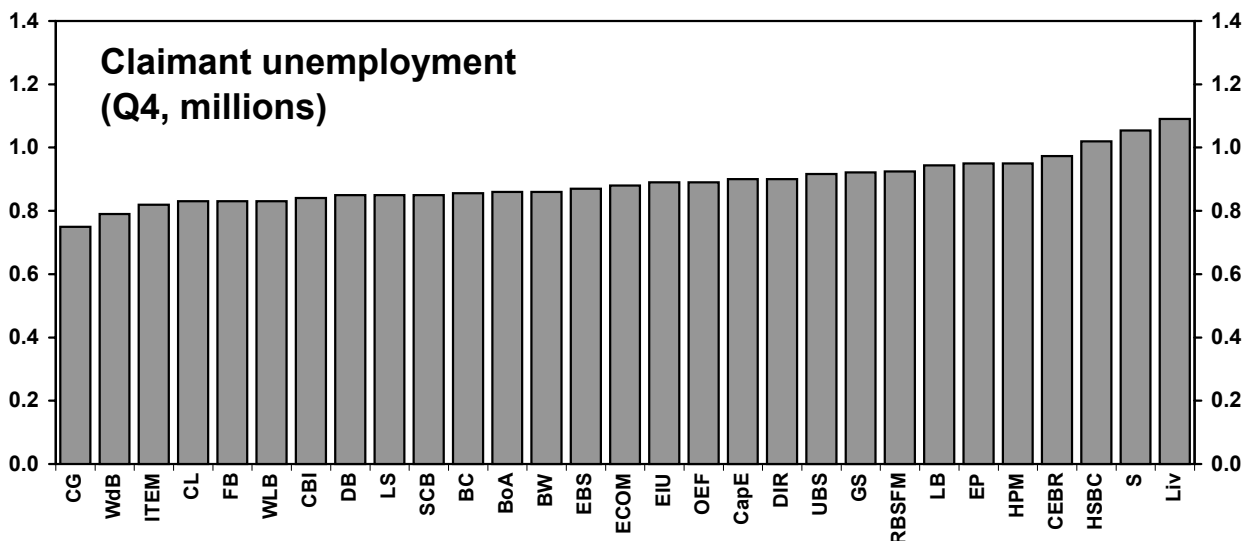
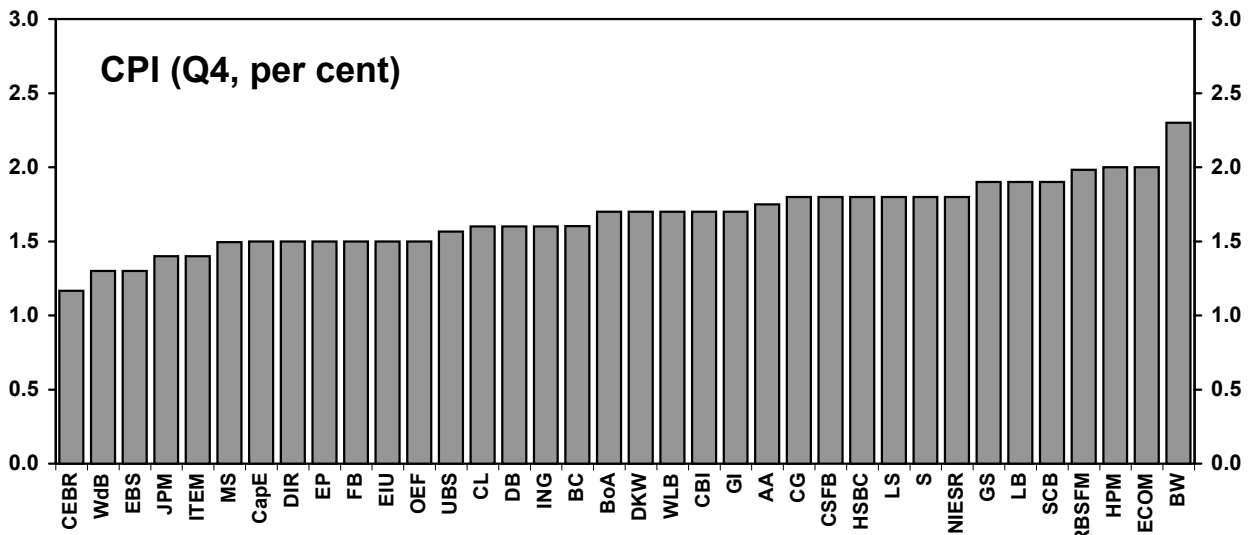
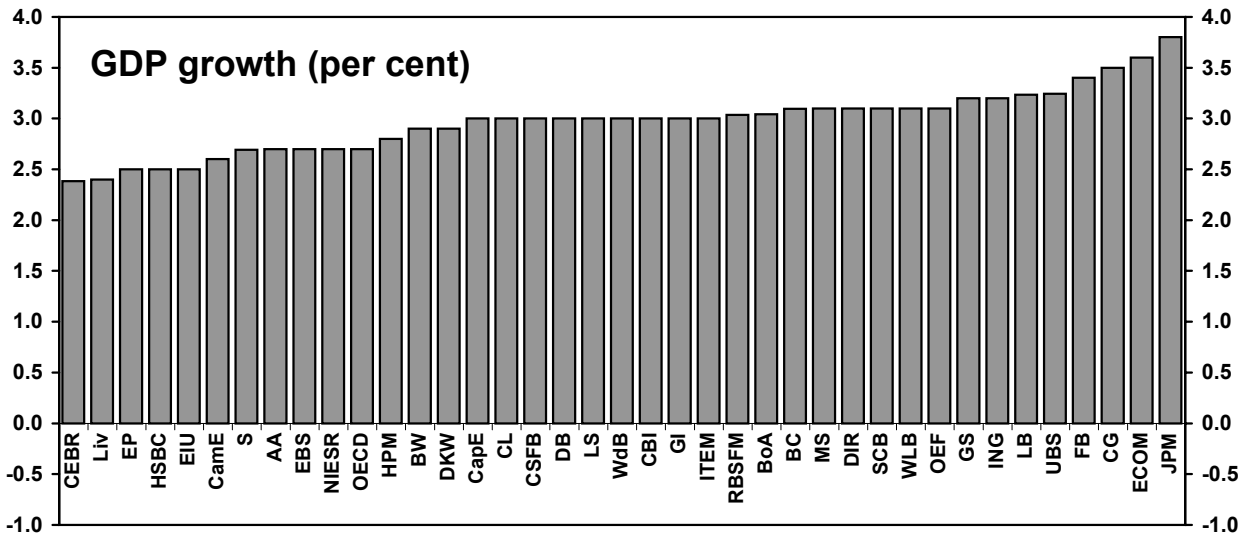
Average of independent forecasts for 2004; GDP growth, RPI & RPIX Inflation and Claimant Unemployment



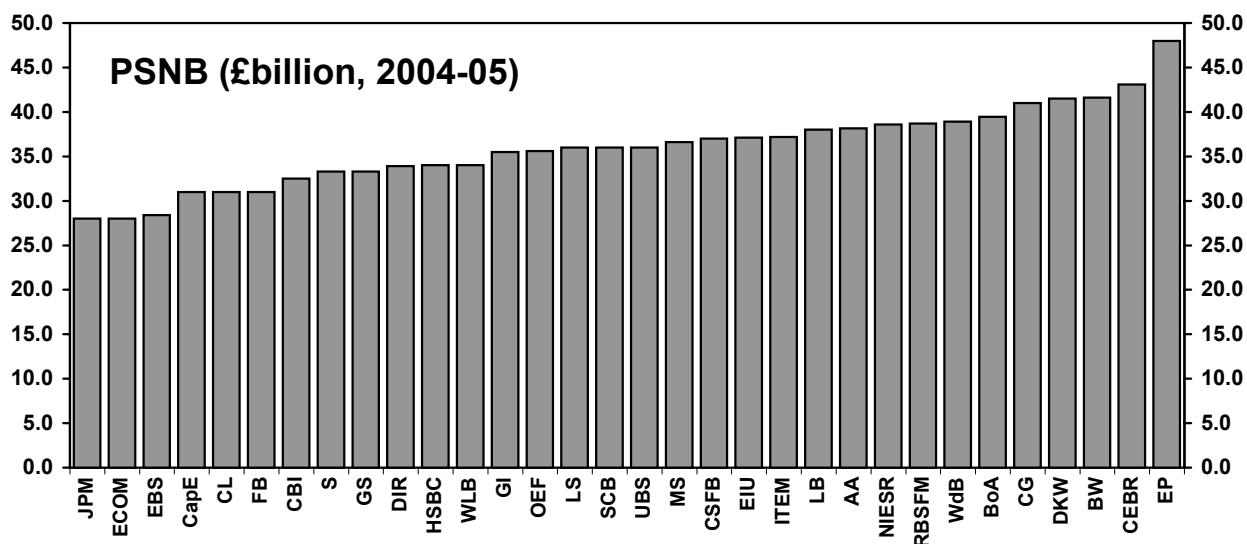
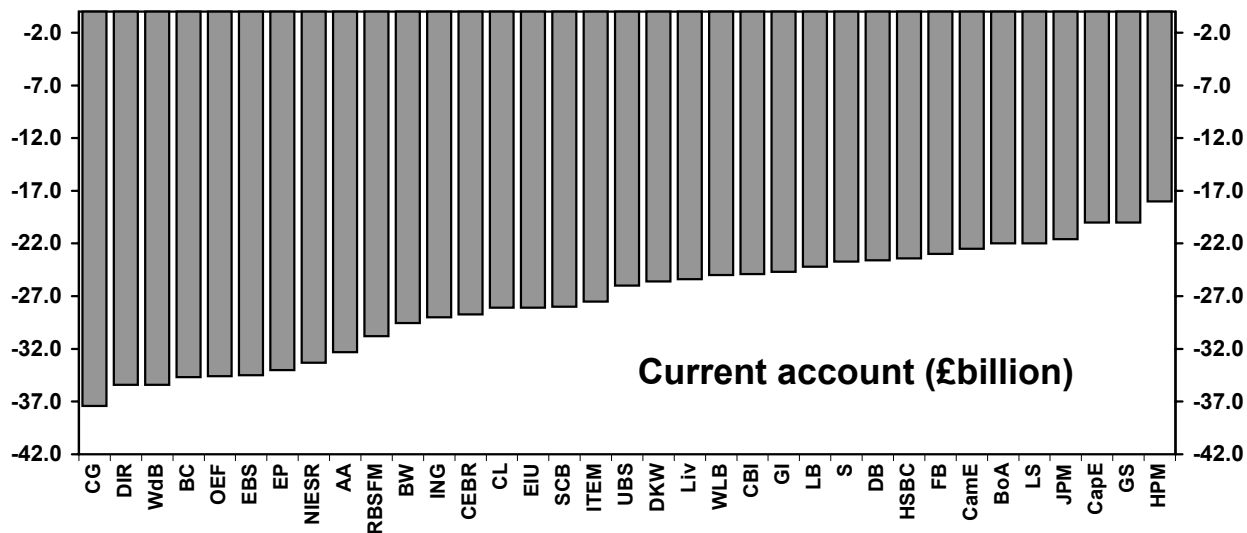
Average of independent forecasts for 2004; Current account and PSNB (2004-05, £billion)



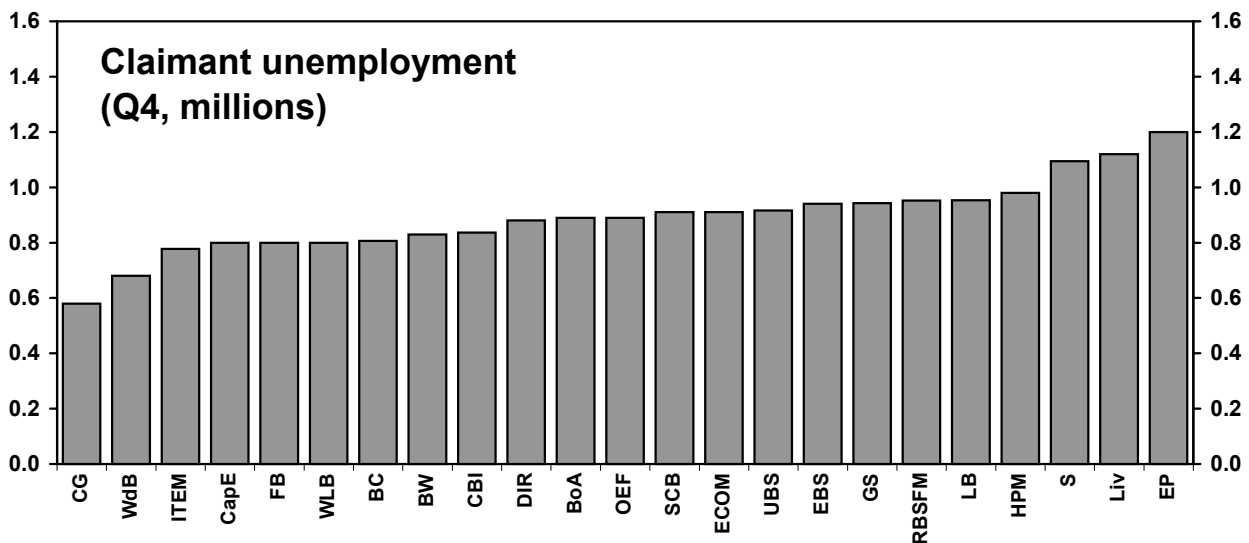
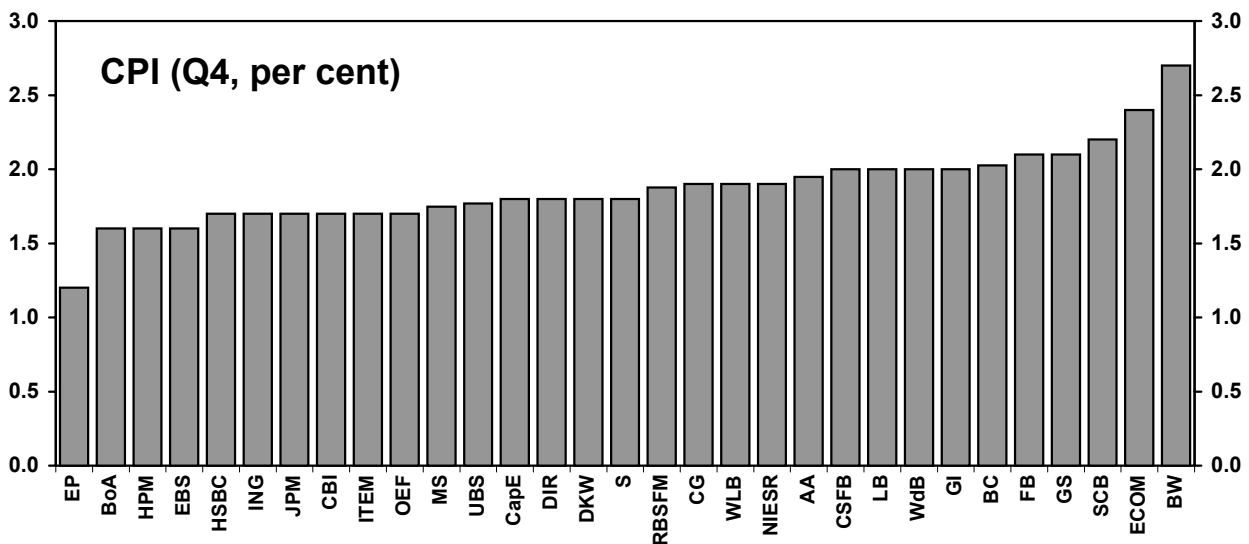
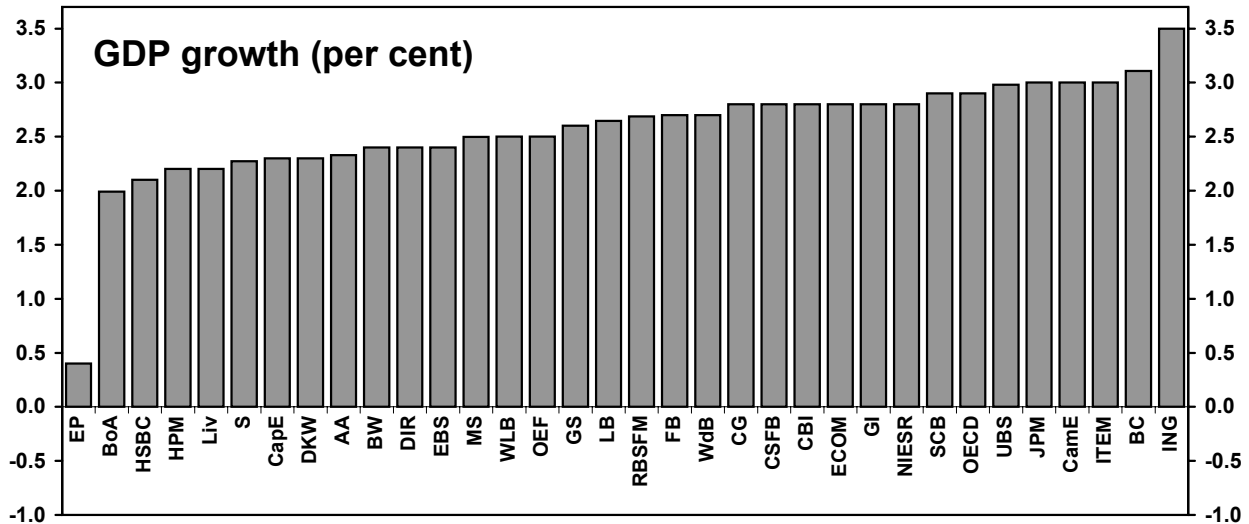
Range of Forecasts for 2004; GDP, CPI and Claimant Unemployment (millions) made in last 3 months



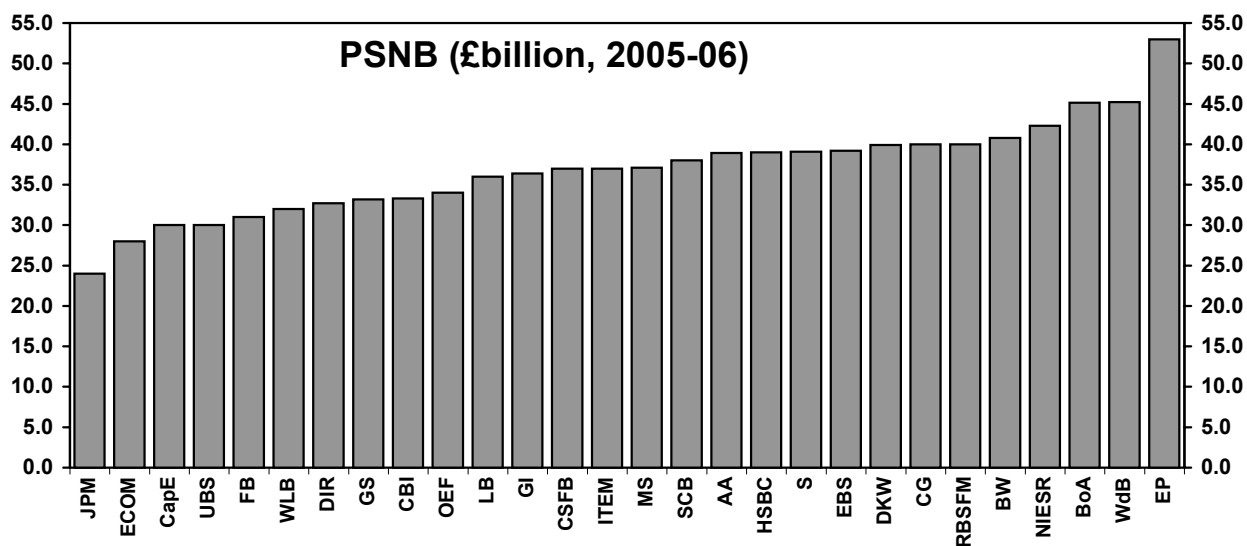
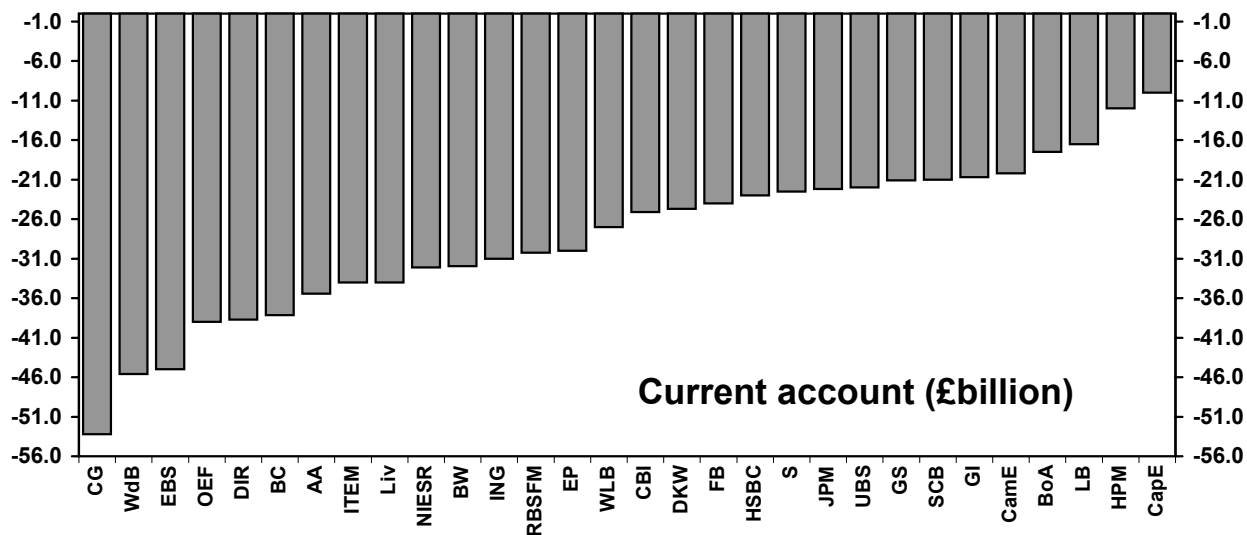
Range of Forecasts for 2004; Current Account (£bn) and PSNB (2004-05, £bn) made in last 3 months



Range of Forecasts for 2005; GDP, CPI and Claimant Unemployment (millions) made in last 3 months



Range of Forecasts for 2005; Current Account (£bn) and PSNB (2005-06, £bn) made in last 3 months



ANNEX 1: Forecasting institutions referred to in charts and tables

AA:	ABN AMRO
BoA:	Bank of America
BW:	Bridgewell
BZW:	Barclays Capital
CamE:	Cambridge Econometrics
CapE:	Capital Economics Ltd
CG:	Citigroup
CBI:	Confederation of British Industry
CEBR:	Centre for Economics and Business Research Ltd
CL:	Credit Lyonnais
CSFB:	Credit Suisse First Boston
DIR:	Daiwa Institute of Research
DB:	Deutsche Bank
DKW:	Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein
EBS:	Experian Business Strategies (previously BSL)
EC:	European Commission
ECOM:	Economy.com Inc
EIU:	Economist Intelligence Unit
EP:	Economic Perspectives
FB:	Fortis Bank
GI:	Global Insight (previously DRI-WEFA)
GS:	Goldman Sachs
HSBC:	HSBC Economics and Strategy
HPM:	Hermes Pension Management Ltd
ING:	ING Financial Markets
IMF:	International Monetary Fund
ISIS:	ISIS Asset Management plc (previously FIS)
ITEM:	ITEM Club
JPM:	JP Morgan Chase
LB:	Lehman Brothers
Liv:	Liverpool Macro Research
LS:	Lombard Street Research Ltd
MS:	Morgan Stanley
NIESR:	National Institute for Economic and Social Research
OECD:	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEF:	Oxford Economic Forecasting
RBSFM:	Royal Bank Of Scotland Financial Markets
S:	Schroders Investment Management
SCB:	Standard Chartered Bank
UBS:	UBS
WLB:	WestLB AG
WdB:	Williams de Broë

ANNEX 2: Data Definitions

GDP	National accounts table C2: Code ABMI
Private Consumption	Households + NPISH, National accounts table C2, Code ABJR+HAYO
General Govt consumption	National accounts table C2, Code NMRY
Gross fixed investment	National accounts table C2, Code NPQT
Change in inventories (1995, £bn)	National accounts table C2, Code CAFU
Domestic Demand	National accounts table C2, Code YBIM
Exports (Goods & Services)	National accounts table C2, Code IKBK
Imports (Goods & Services)	National accounts table C2, Code IKBL
CPI (Q4)	Consumer Price Indices release, Table 1, Code CJYR
RPI (Q4)	Consumer Price Indices release, Table 1, Code CZBH
RPIX (Q4)	Consumer Price Indices release, Table 1, Code CDKQ
Headline average Earnings	Labour Market Statistics table 15, Code LNNC
Sterling Index (Q4, 1990=100)	ONS code AGBG
Bank of England repo rate (Q4)	(Previously 3 month interbank rate (Q4))
Oil price (\$ per barrel)	Brent crude, annual average
M4 growth	Bank of England Monetary and Financial statistics division Code VQJW, Calendar year (previously financial year)
RHDI	National accounts table J2, Code NRJR
Employment growth	Workforce jobs, Labour Market statistics table 4, Code DYDC
Claimant Unemployment (Q4, mn)	Labour market statistics table 10, code BCJD
Manufacturing Output	National accounts table B1, Code CKYY
World trade in Manufactures	
Current account (£bn)	Balance of payments release table A, Code HBOP
Public Sector Net Borrowing	Public sector finances release table PSF 1 / Public sector accounts table PSAT 1, Code ANNX

ANNEX 3: Notation used in tables

a:	consumers expenditure deflator
b:	underlying consumers expenditure deflator
c:	non-durable consumption
d:	current and capital expenditure, including stockbuilding
e:	private sector investment, stockbuilding and durable consumption
f:	investment and stockbuilding combined
g:	as a percentage of GDP
h:	contribution to GDP growth - per cent
i:	hourly rate
j:	end period
k:	calendar year
m:	non-oil trade
n:	wages and salaries divided by employees in employment
o:	consumer price deflator to Q4
p:	calculated from general government financial deficit figures adjusted for privatisation proceeds
q:	forecast growth rates for Q4
r:	various definitions; refer to forecasters for details
s:	3 month interbank rate
u:	general government current and capital expenditure plus stockbuilding
v:	average of spot price of Brent crude and Dubai light crude
w:	world trade in goods and services
x:	claimant unemployment rate
z:	OECD real imports of goods and services
aa:	ILO unemployment rate
bb:	households only
cc:	PSNCR (Formerly PSBR)
dd:	harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP)
ee:	general government financial balance
ff:	gross disposable income deflated by implicit price of private consumption
gg:	1990 Prices
hh:	World GDP
ii:	OPEC average
jj:	Industrial output
kk:	Final domestic demand
ll:	GDP deflator
nn:	VAT fraud adjusted
pp:	% change on previous year
qq:	budget deficit as % of GDP
rr:	employee jobs (code BCAJ)
ss:	financial year- end

ANNEX 4: Organisation Contact Details

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Telephone number</u>
ABN AMRO	Richard Iley	020 7678 7575
Bank of America	Holger Schmeiding	020 7634 4515
Barclays Capital	Nick Verdi	020 7773 2173
Bridgewell	Richard Jeffrey	020 7003 3500
Cambridge Econometrics	Rachel Beaven	01223 460 760
Capital Economics Ltd	Jonathan Loynes	020 7823 5000
Citigroup	Michael Saunders	020 7986 9297
CBI	Trevor Cullinan	020 7395 8102
CEBR	Andrij Halushka	020 7324 2860
Credit Lyonnais	Glenn Davies	020 7214 5388
Credit Suisse First Boston	Neville Hill	020 7888 1334
Daiwa Institute of Research	Don Egginton	020 7597 8470
Deutsche Bank	George Buckley	020 7545 1372
Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein	John O'Sullivan	020 7475 2423
Experian Business Strategies (previously BSL)	Rajveer Berar	0870 196 8227
EC	John Macdonald	32 2 2955267
Economy.com Inc	David Ingram	020 8487 1378
EIU	Phillip Whyte	020 7830 1287
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