

15 Most Important Indicators

European Union	
GDP	GDP is the value of all final goods and services produced in the Euro area. It is the broadest measure of economic activity and the principal indicator of economic performance.
Current Account	Also known as the balance of payments, this data analyzes all transactions between the Euro area and the rest of the world. It is the most comprehensive measure of international transactions.
Unemployment Rate	Percentage of the workforce
DEM Unemployment Change	Figure expressed in thousands. A positive number means unemployment is increasing and is therefore viewed badly by the market. In reverse a negative number is actually welcome since it means unemployment is decreasing
CPI	This index measures the change in prices for a fixed basket of goods and services, which is purchased by consumers.
ZEW Economic Survey	The indicator reflects the difference between the share of analysts that are optimistic and the share of analysts that are pessimistic for the expected economic development in Germany in six months.
IFO Economic Survey	A gauge of German business confidence, based on executives' inputs.
Industrial Production	A measure of total industrial out of Euro-zone calculated on a month over month and year over year basis.
DEM Industrial Production	A composite index of German industrial output including manufacturing (82%), construction (9.5%), energy (5.9%), and mining (2.7%). It is one of the most important indicators for German output performance and overall growth as industry accounts for close to 40% of GDP.
DEM Factory Orders	An index of the volume of orders for manufactured products to German industry including intermediate goods (45.6%), capital goods (35.1%), consumer durables (11.8%), and consumer non-durables (7.4%). It is usually a good indicator of output performance.
Retail Trade	Self-explanatory
DEM Retail Sales	An aggregate for the sales of many forms of retail outlets, important for estimating German private consumption.
Euro-Zone Labor Costs	The expenditures borne by employers in order to employ workers, both in terms of direct and indirect costs,
PMI Services	Survey of service providers, focuses on issues such as costs and demand.
PMI Manufacturing	Survey of manufacturers, focuses on issues such as costs and demand.

Japan	
GDP	GDP is the value of all final goods and services produced in Japan. It is the broadest measure of economic activity and the principal indicator of economic performance.
Current Account	Also known as the balance of payments, this data analyzes all transactions between Japan and the rest of the world. It is the most comprehensive measure of international transactions.
Jobless Rate	A component of the Labor Force Survey. Because Japanese companies usually avoid layoffs, except in extreme circumstances, the data only shows mild cyclicality.
Trade Balance	The difference between the value of exports and imports; it greatly affects the changes in the current account because the trade surplus accounts for a large share of current account surplus in Japan.
Tokyo CPI	It is the first comprehensive Japanese inflation measure released each month.
LEI	Based on such components as inventory, job offers, orders, price indexes, the money supply, profits, and confidence.
Tertiary Industry Index	Focuses on business conditions in the services industry.
Industrial Production	Focuses on manufacturing. Despite its monthly volatility and low correlation with quarterly GDP, industrial activity is probably the most reliable single indicator of the cycle.
Machine Tool Orders	Name is self-explanatory. Used as a leading indicator of private equipment investment.
Capital Spending	There are several capital spending surveys which all tend to agree on the broad trends. They are a key influence on the Japanese "consensus view of the business outlook.
Retail Trade	Gauge of all Retail Trade in Japan
Convenience Store Sales	Used to gauge everyday spending trends
Workers Household Spending	Investigates the current income and expenditures of consumer households. Since consumer spending accounts for approximately 60% of GDP, it is an important component of economic growth.
Eco Watchers Survey	The index monitors the general business sentiment of sector employees working in industries close to consumers, such as barbers, taxi drivers, and waiters.
Large Retailers Sales	Covers large department stores and large chain stores, which account for a small percentage of consumer spending.

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UNITED KINGDOM	
GDP	GDP is the value of all final goods and services produced in the UK. It is the broadest measure of economic activity and the principal indicator of economic performance.
Current Account	Also known as the balance of payments, this data analyzes all transactions between the US and the rest of the world. It is the most comprehensive measure of international transactions.
Unemployment Change	Based on unemployed individuals who are actively seeking work and are claiming unemployment-related benefits.
CPI	This index measures the change in prices for a fixed basket of goods and services, which is purchased by consumers.
LEI	A composite of economic variables designed to signal turning points in the economy. As a rule of thumb, three declines in a row are interpreted as signaling a recession (with an average lead time of about 12 months).
RICS House Balance	An index of house price inflation.
Nationwide House Prices	An index of house prices.
Retail Sales m/m	Monitors the volume and value of retail sales, comprised of food, non-specialized stores, clothing and footwear, household goods, non-store retailing, and other nonfood.
BRC Shop Price Index	An indicator of price changes in retail outlets, providing a picture of the inflation faced by shoppers on the most commonly bought items.
Industrial Production	Output indexes of production industries, comprised of mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction, manufacturing, and electricity/gas/water supply.
Manufacturing Production	The most important component of the Industrial Production Report.
CIPS Services	Monitors activity in the services sector.
CIPS Manufacturing	Monitors activity in the manufacturing sector.
CBI Monthly Industrial Trends Survey	The survey of the manufacturing sector contains a lot of information about orders, inventories, output, overall business confidence, intentions, cost pressures, and capacity utilization.
CBI Distributive Trades Survey	A survey of some 500 to 600 firms involved in distribution. There are 3 subgroups: wholesaling, retailing, and the auto trade.

UNITED STATES	
GDP	GDP is the value of all final goods and services produced in the US. It is the broadest measure of economic activity and the principal indicator of economic performance.
Current Account	Also known as the balance of payments, this data analyzes all transactions between the US and the rest of the world. It is the most comprehensive measure of international transactions.
Non-Farm Payrolls	A component of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Report which is the single most important report on economic activity.
CPI	This index measures the change in prices for a fixed basket of goods and services, which is purchased by consumers.
LEI	A composite of economic variables designed to signal turning points in the economy. As a rule of thumb, three declines in a row are interpreted as signaling a recession (with an average lead time of about 12 months).
ISM Manufacturing	Approximately 300 companies are asked to comment on the relative growth of five categories relating to the manufacturing sector. Results over 50 are bullish, whereas results under 50 are bearish.
ISM Non-Man.	Growth survey for non-manufacturing sectors.
Industrial Production	Primarily a gauge for manufacturing activity, measures the total output of all factories, mines, and utilities. This indicator is extremely useful for predicting shifts in overall economic cycles, and can be used to gauge changes in GDP.
Durable Goods	This indicator measures the total number of manufacturers' orders for durable goods, which are defined as goods with a foreseeable lifespan of three years or more. It acts as a gauge for manufacturing activity.
Empire State Manufacturing	Participants from a variety of industries within New York state are asked to evaluate current and upcoming conditions.
Philly Fed	A survey of manufacturing in the Philadelphia Reserve Bank district. An especially important component is the current general activity index.
Existing Home Sales	A private report on sales of previously-owned single-family homes. Along with new home sales as an economic indicator.
Personal Income	Consumption accounts for two-thirds of GDP, and income is the main determinant of consumption.
Personal Consumption	Consumption consists of purchases of goods and services; it accounts for two-thirds of GDP.
U. Mich. Con. Confidence	This survey asks consumers to evaluate the overall business climate as it pertains to their own situation. There is a direct correlation between consumer sentiment and the growth of consumer spending; the latter is especially important because it makes up two-thirds of GDP.