



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء
General Authority for Statistics



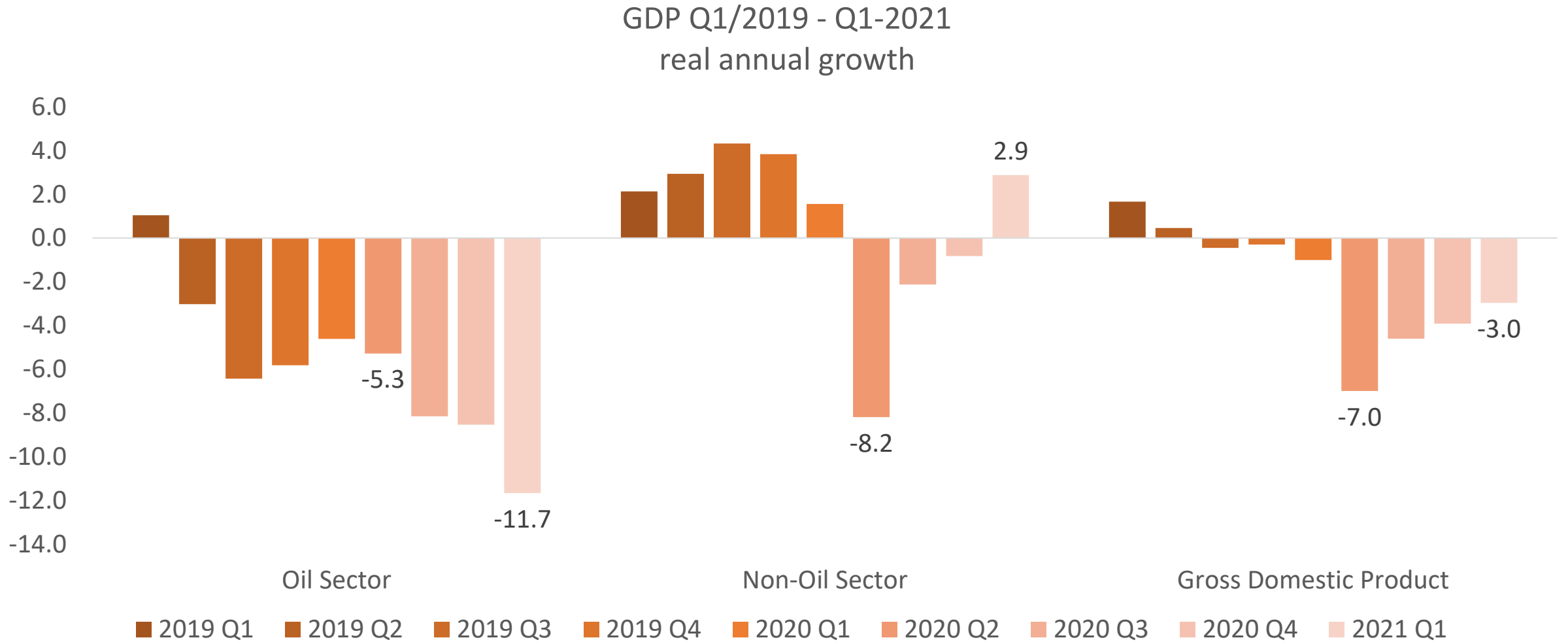
Economic Statistics in Saudi Arabia during and post-pandemic

Dr. Konrad Pesendorfer

6 JULY 2021

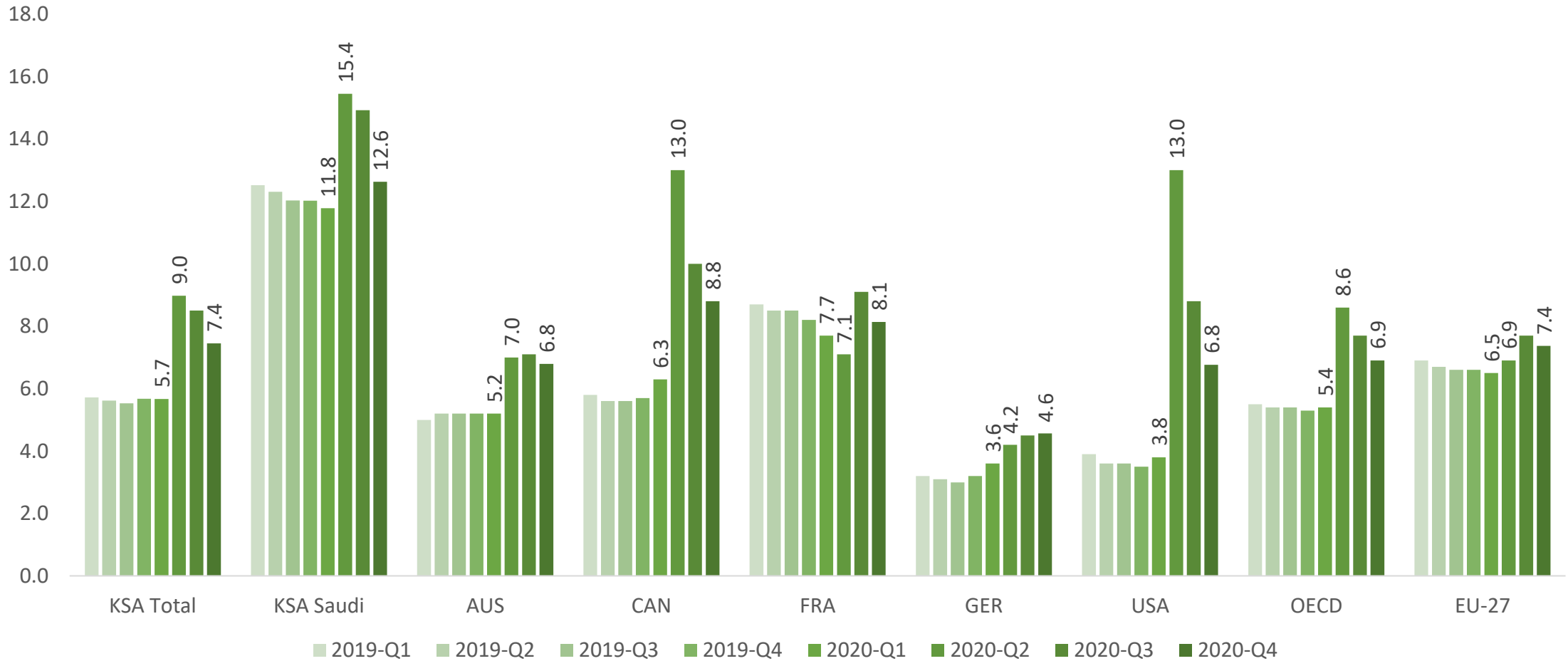
- Economic impact of the pandemic in KSA
- Producing economic statistics in a crisis mode
- User needs in a crisis
- GASTAT's response
- Long term changes – how different is (statistical) life post-pandemic?

Economic Impact of the pandemic in KSA



Economic Impact of the pandemic in KSA

Unemployment rates KSA + international 2019 q1 - 2020 q4



Economic Statistics during and post-pandemic

Producing official statistics
in a pandemic

User Needs

Long term changes –
post pandemic

Producing official statistics in a pandemic

Data collection

- Disruption of Field Work
 - Census delay
 - LFS
- From CAPI to CATI/CAWI

Methodological Challenges

- Methodological implications of mode change
- Methodological changes of international standards
- Continuity of time series
- Communication challenge
 - Real development vs
 - Methodological artefact

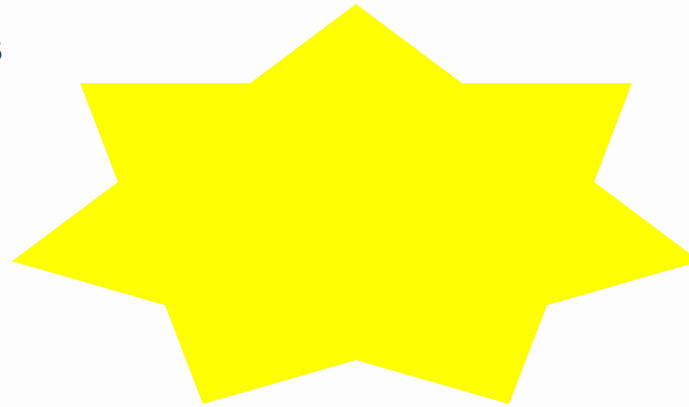
Business Continuity

- Remote working
- Staff in sick leave
- Social distance workspace
- Technology
 - Data collection
 - Remote working

User needs in a pandemic environment

Crisis reaction of governments:

- Support programs for individuals
- Labour Market support
- Targeted business support
- Health measures



Data needs:

- Timeliness of information
- Granularity of information
- Frequency of information
- Targeted statistical products addressing information needs

Shortening timelag: GDP Flash Estimate

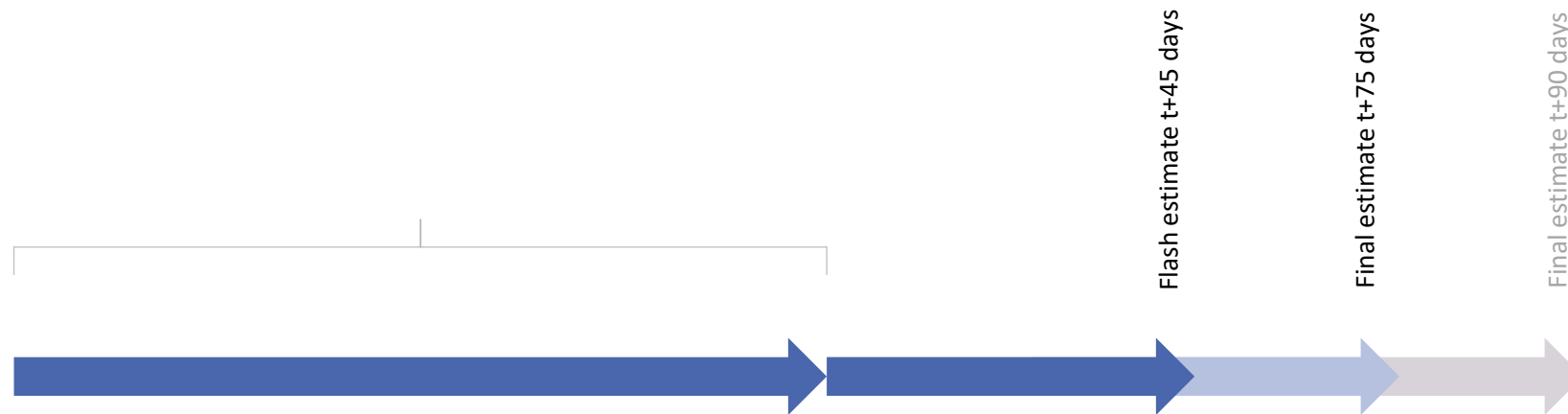
Purpose:

- Make information on GDP available earlier
- Enable Policy makers to make decisions on more up to date information
- Meet international best practice

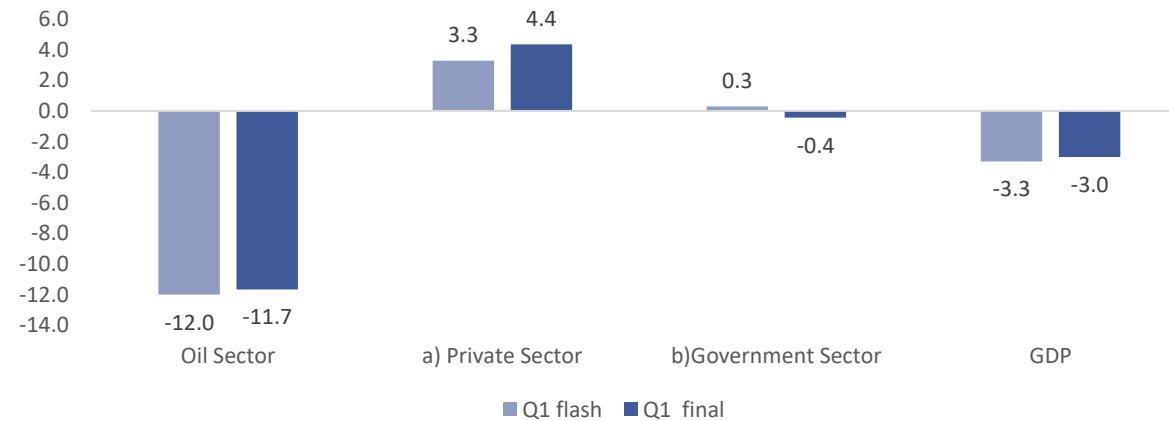
Project:

- Start: 2020
- First GDP Flash estimate Q3/2020
- Lag shortened from t+90 days to t+45 days (flash estimate)
- Lag shortened from t+90 days to t+75 days (final estimate)
- Model built by international experts

Reference Period t



GDP Estimates Flash vs final Q1/2021



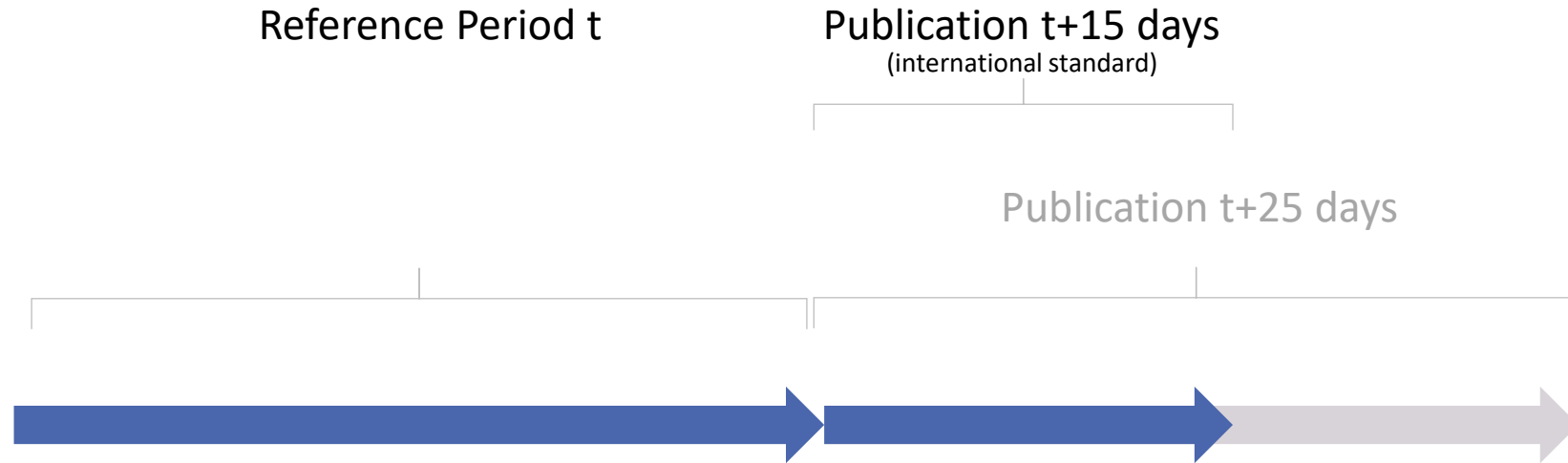
Shortening timelag: Consumer Price Index

Purpose:

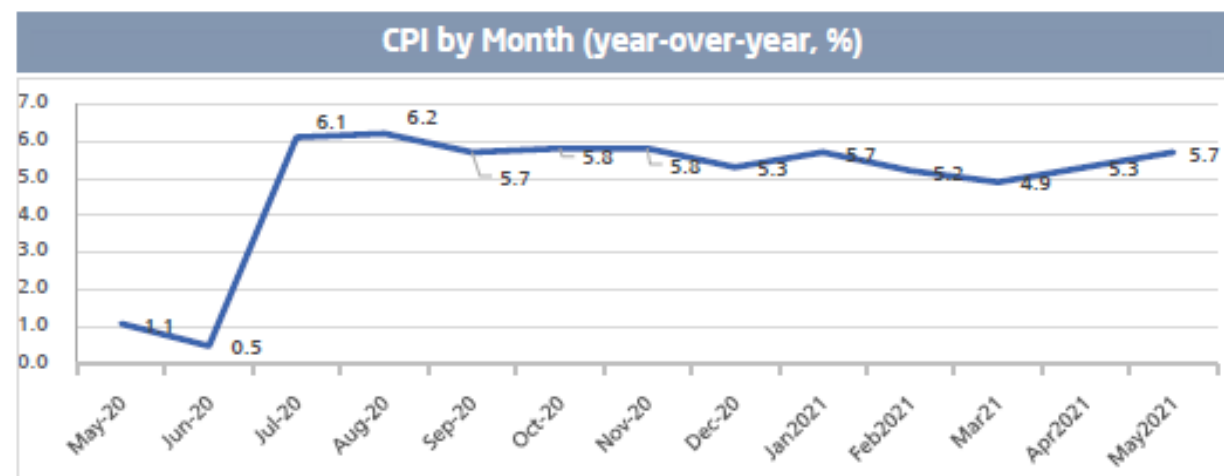
- Make information on consumer price developments available earlier
- Meet international standards

Project:

- Start: 2020
- completed 2020
- Lag shortened from t+25 days to t+10 days.
- Internal processes streamlined, objective achieved



Annual and Monthly Change in CPI by Main Expenditure Category, May 2021		
Expenditure Category	*Percent change in 2021 compared to	
	May 2020	April 2021
GENERAL INDEX	5.7	0.2
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	7.4	0.2
TOBACCO	13.3	0.2
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	5.9	0.3
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	-2.6	-0.2
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	8.1	0.4
HEALTH	3.2	0.0
TRANSPORT	19.3	0.5
COMMUNICATION	13.5	-0.1
RECREATION AND CULTURE	4.9	0.2
EDUCATION	-9.1	0.0
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	8.2	-0.1
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	5.1	0.7



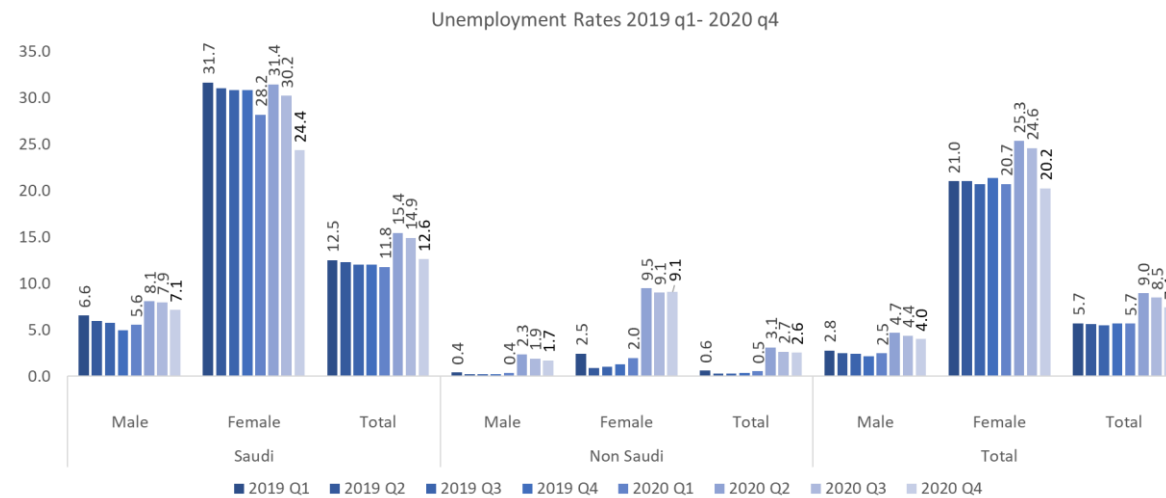
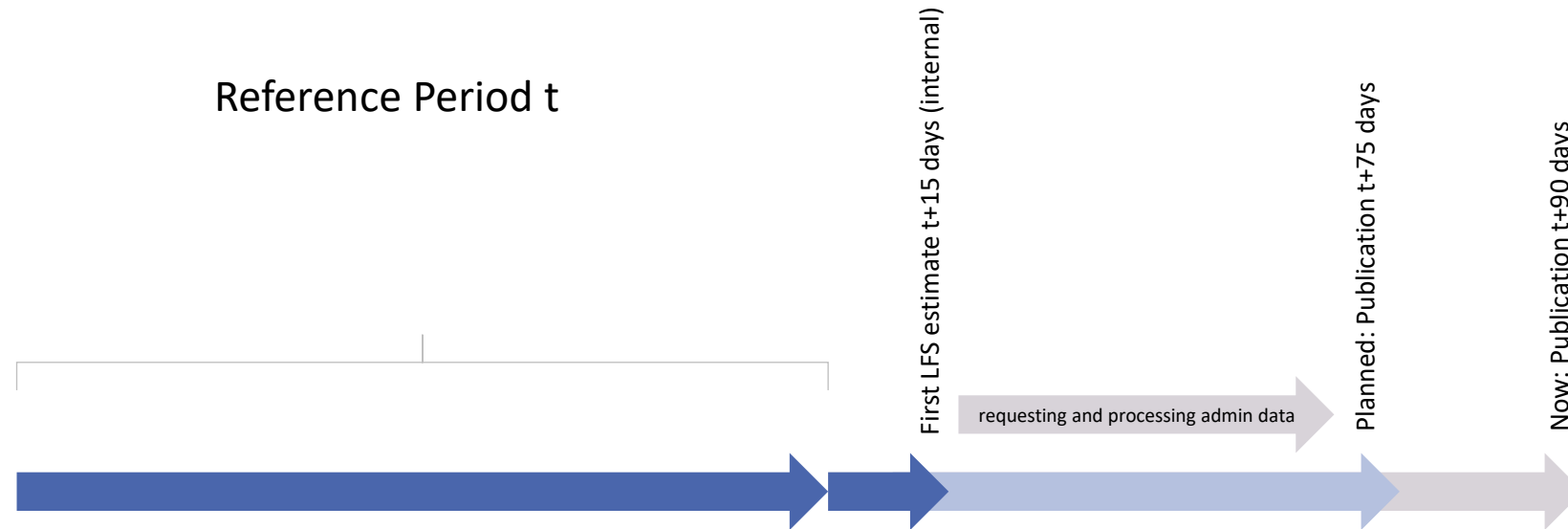
Shortening timelag: LFS data

Purpose:

- Make information on labour market developments available earlier
- Enable Policy makers to make decisions on more up to date information
- Meet international best practice

Project:

- Start: 2020
- Automation of internal processes
- ongoing
- Objective: shorten lag from t+90 days to t+75 days



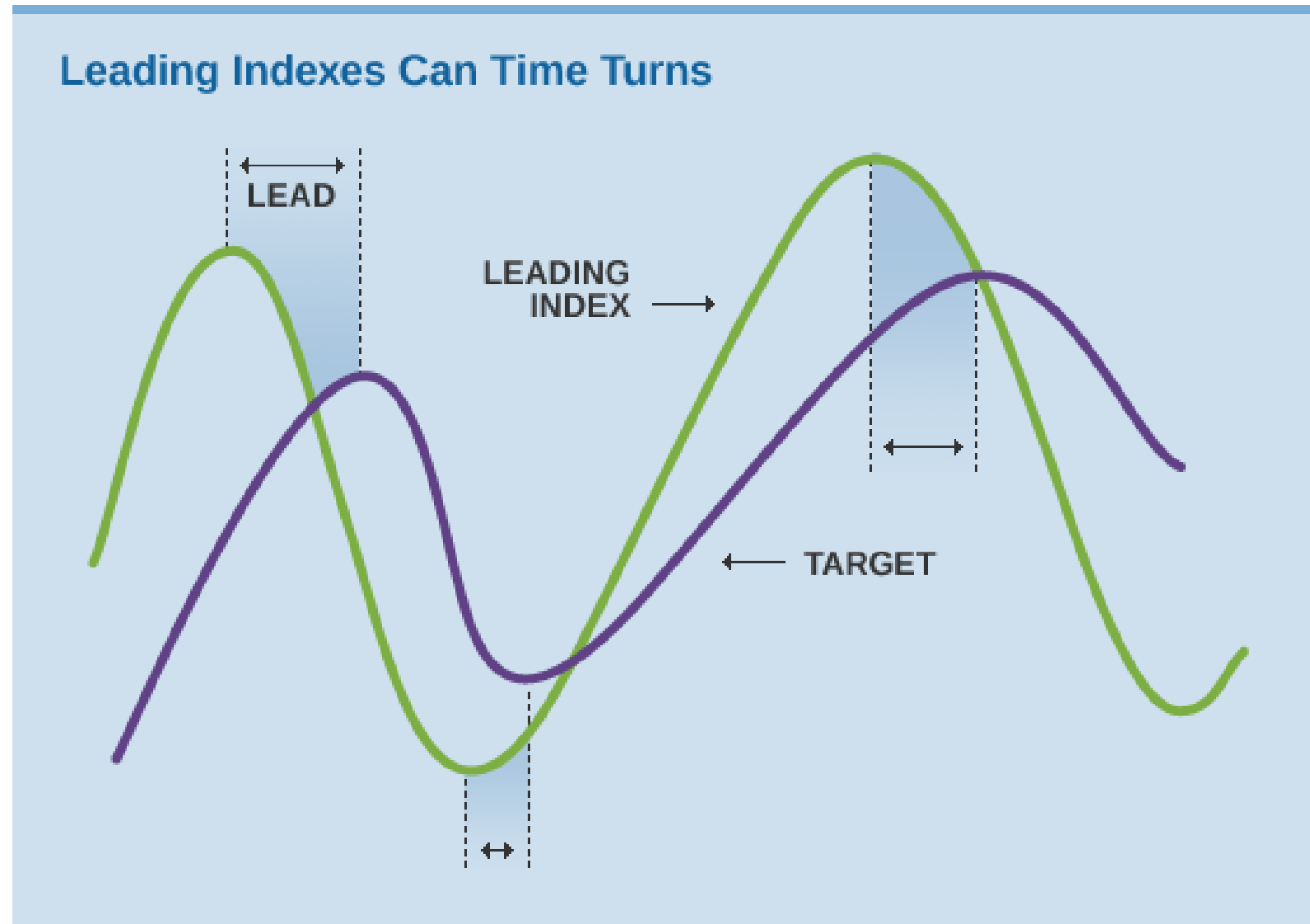
Producing leading indicators

Purpose:

- Develop and publish leading indicators
- Give policy makers early indications of where the economy goes
- Business Confidence Index
- Consumer Sentiment Index

Project:

- Start: 2021
- Business Confidence Index to be developed
- Consumer Sentiment Index methodology to be refined, data collection already started



Regional GDP



Long Term Changes after the pandemic



Changes in Working Practices

- Teleworking
- New digital jobs
- Sharing economy



Changes in the Economy

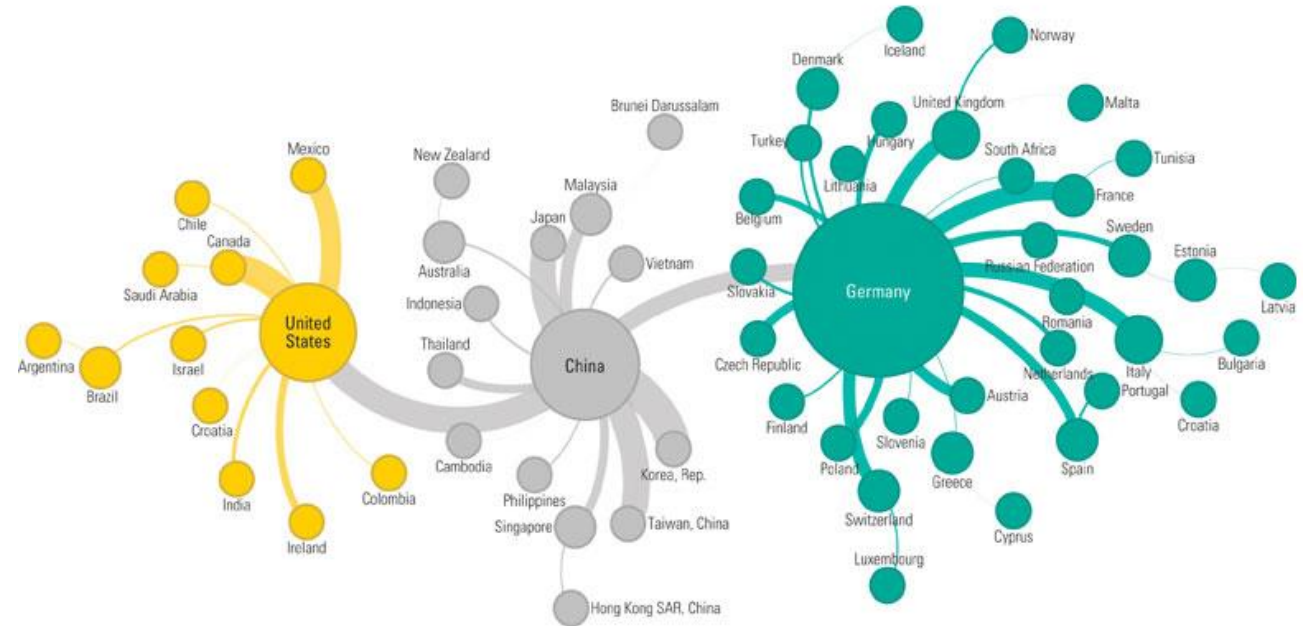
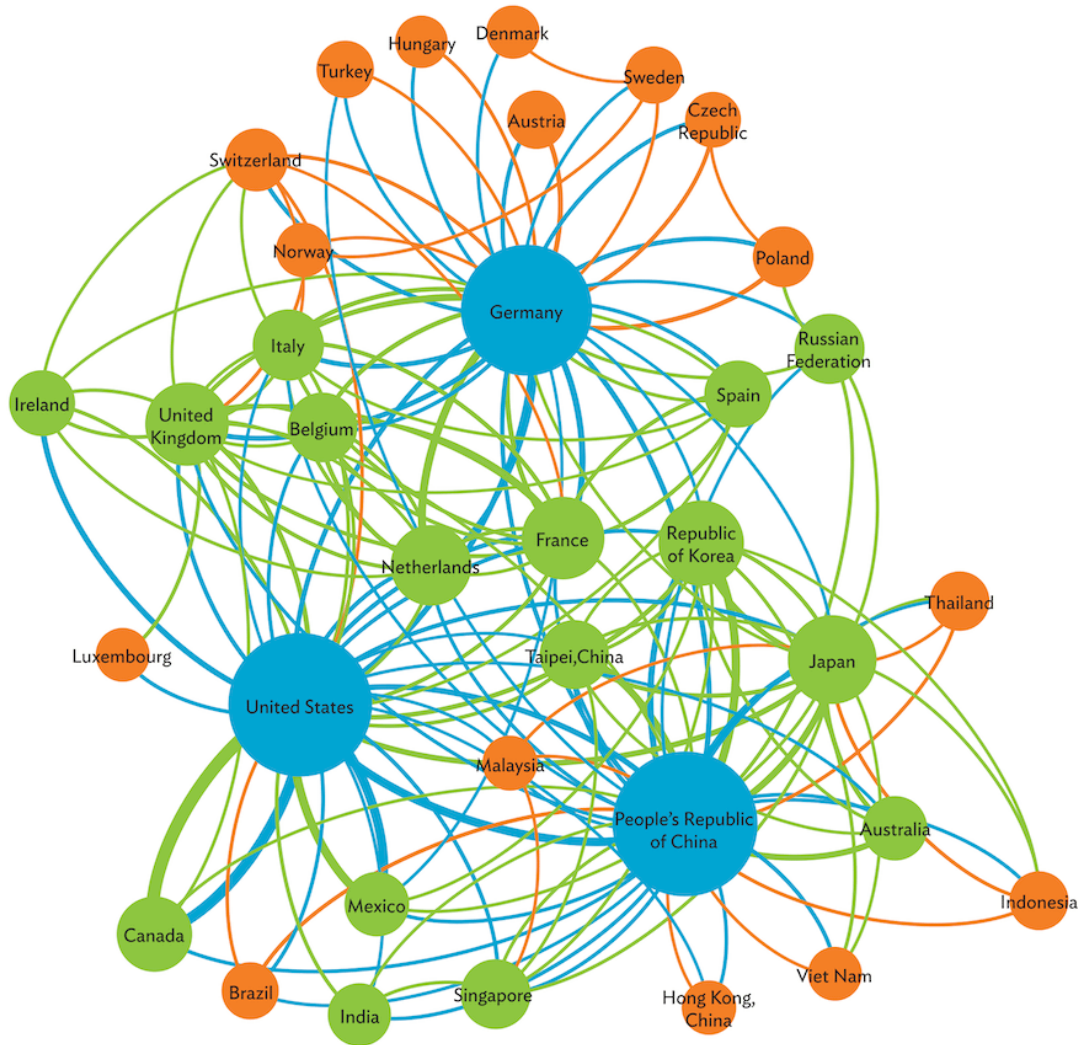
- GVC disruptions - New sourcing models
- What is cyclical, what is structural (e.g. labour shortages, energy supply)



New phenomena to measure

- Detailed Health statistics
- Digitalization
- Climate change
- Social impact of the pandemic

Supply Use Tables – Input Output Tables



Conclusions

- Economic and social statistics have never been more important than during the crisis
 - National Statistics Offices need to take an agile approach
 - Statistics is relevant, if
 - Timely
 - High frequency
 - Addressing the right issues
 - Detailed
 - ...and accurate.
 - Make use of technologies!
 - Learn from each other!
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