

The Euro Zone and the Sovereign Debt Crisis



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Eurozone crisis explained

The European sovereign debt crisis resulted from a combination of complex factors, including the globalisation of finance; easy credit conditions during the 2002-2008 period that encouraged high-risk lending and borrowing practices; the 2007-2010 global financial crisis; international trade imbalances; real-estate bubbles that have since burst; the 2008-2012 global recession; fiscal policy choices related to government revenues and expenses; and approaches used by nations to bail out troubled banking industries and private bondholders, assuming private debt burdens or socialising losses.




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The Greek government-debt crisis is one of a number of current European sovereign-debt crises.

On 2 May 2010, the Eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed on a €110 billion bailout loan for Greece, conditional on compliance with the following three key points:

1. Implementation of austerity measures, to restore the fiscal balance;
2. Privatisation of government assets worth €50bn by the end of 2015, to keep the debt pile sustainable;
3. Implementation of outlined structural reforms, to improve competitiveness and growth prospects.



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Eurozone debt crisis: what does it mean for the UK?



David Cameron warns European debt crisis is far from over




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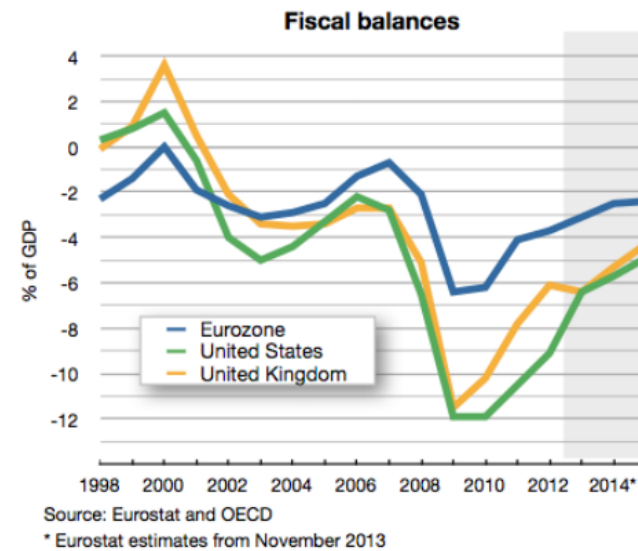
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Eurozone debt crisis mean for the UK?



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What does the eurozone debt crisis mean for the UK?

As the outlines of an agreement emerge from the EU's make-or-break summit to save the euro, there is one point that is now certain: The UK will not be part of it.
But while the political stakes for Britain may have become starkly clear, the economic and financial stakes remain wide open.
For the UK stands to gain or lose enormously depending on whether the euro succeeds or fails - an outcome over which the UK now has very little influence.

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How does the proposed euro agreement affect the UK?

On the face of it, it will have very little direct effect, as the UK will be excluded from the new treaty.

Proposals for new rules on government borrowing, and a possible harmonisation of corporate tax rates, are only aimed at eurozone countries.

David Cameron has dodged the tax on financial transactions - the "Robin tax" or "Robin Hood tax" - being pushed by France and Germany, which he said would damage the City's global competitiveness as a financial centre, unless it were also adopted in the US and elsewhere.

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