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German labour market and the crisis

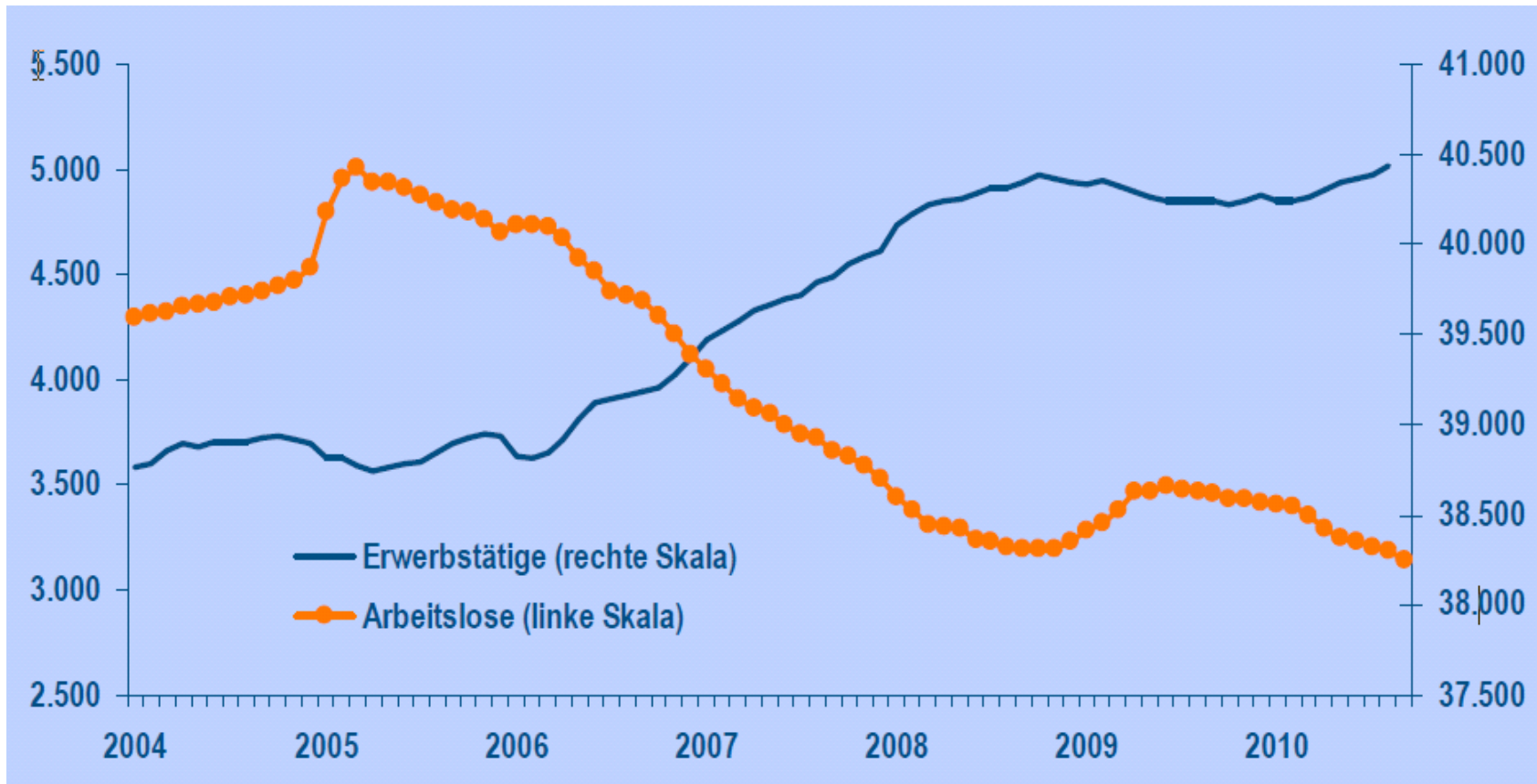
European Social Partner seminar
„The implementation of flexicurity and the role of social partners“

Lisbon, 9/10 December 2010

Jan Dannenbring, Head of unit for labour market policies

Labour market development in Germany

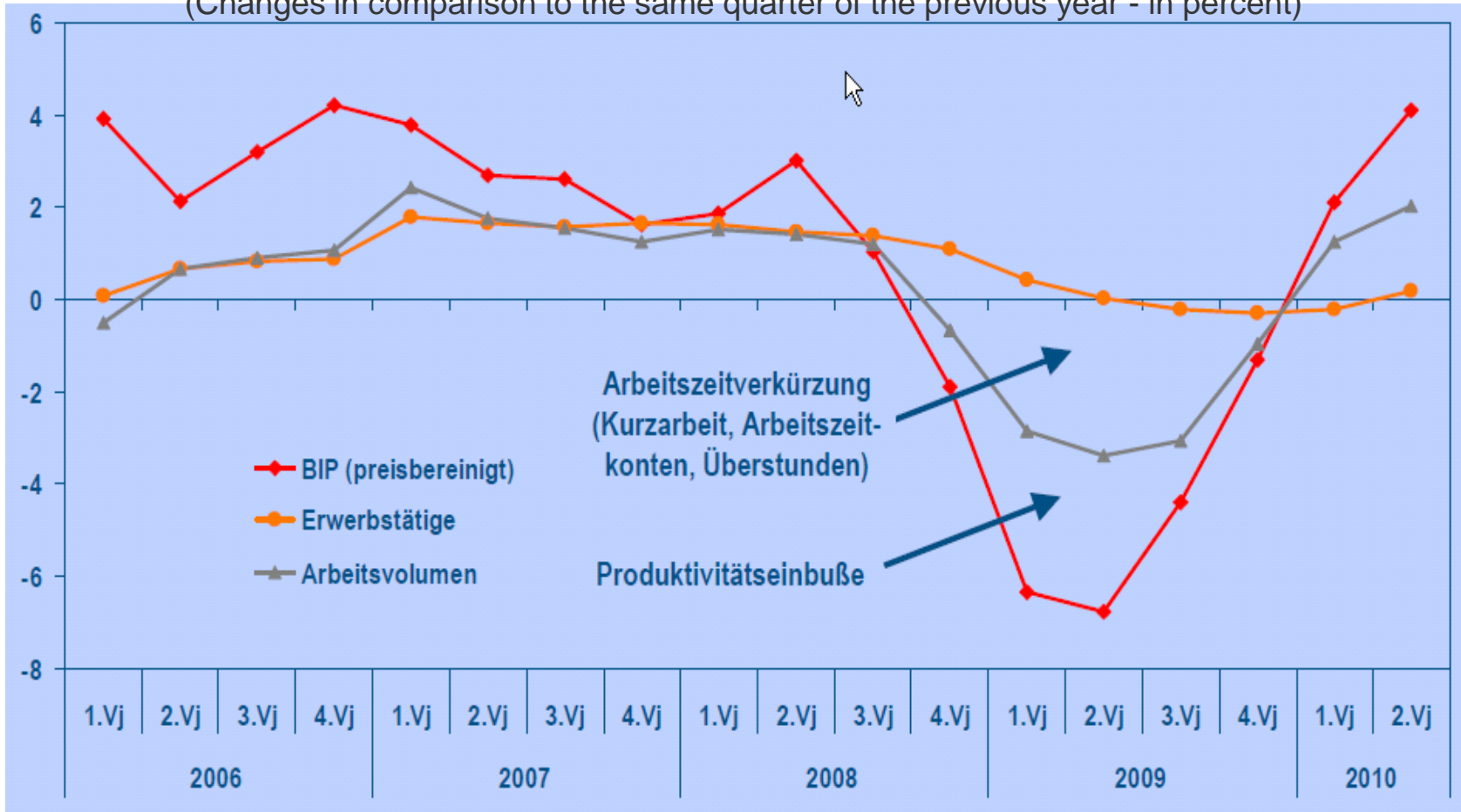
Number of employed (**blue**) and unemployed (**orange**) persons
(in thousand)



Reaction of the labour market to the crisis

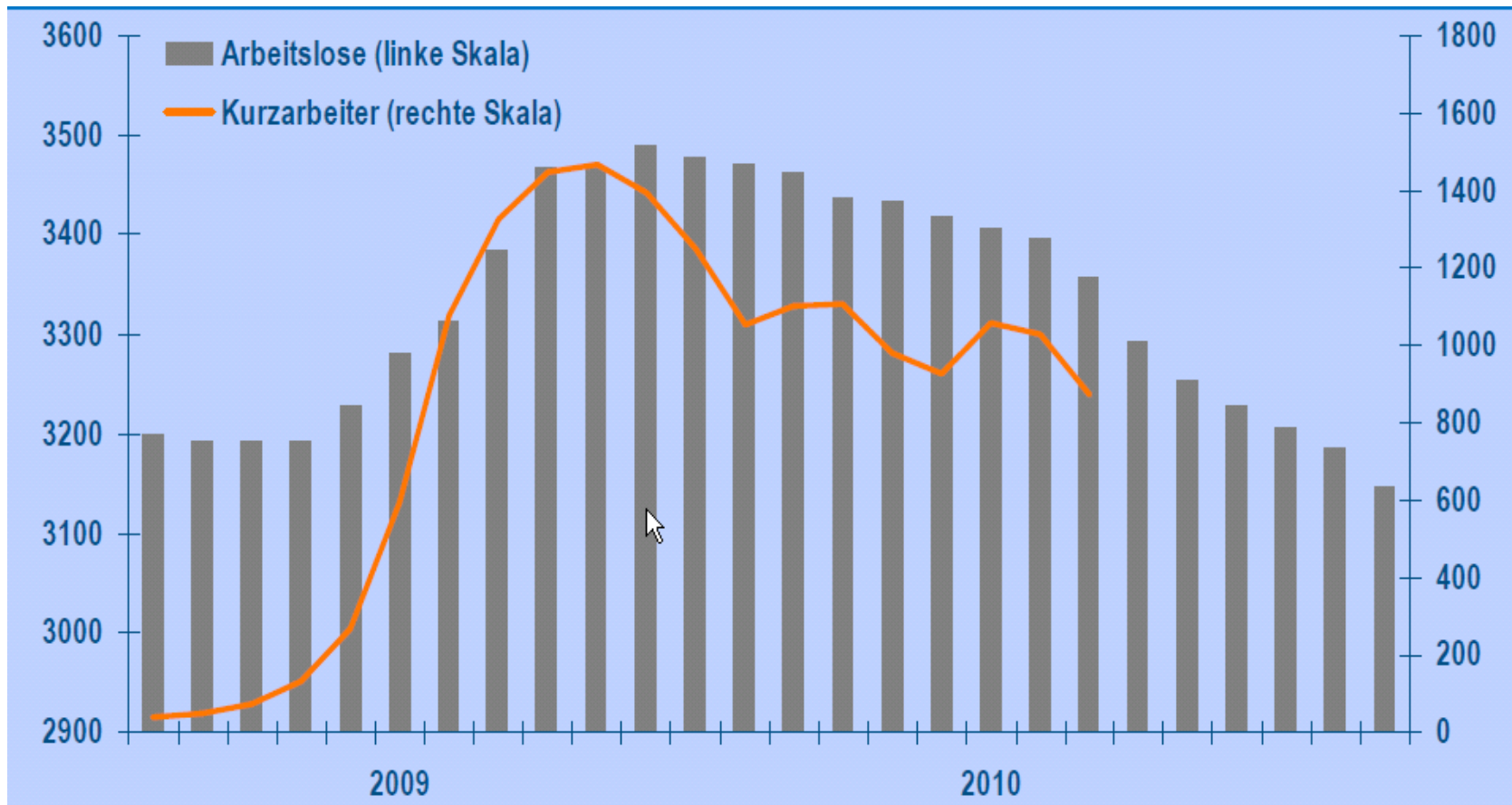
GDP – Employment – Work volume

(Changes in comparison to the same quarter of the previous year - in percent)



Importance of short-time work

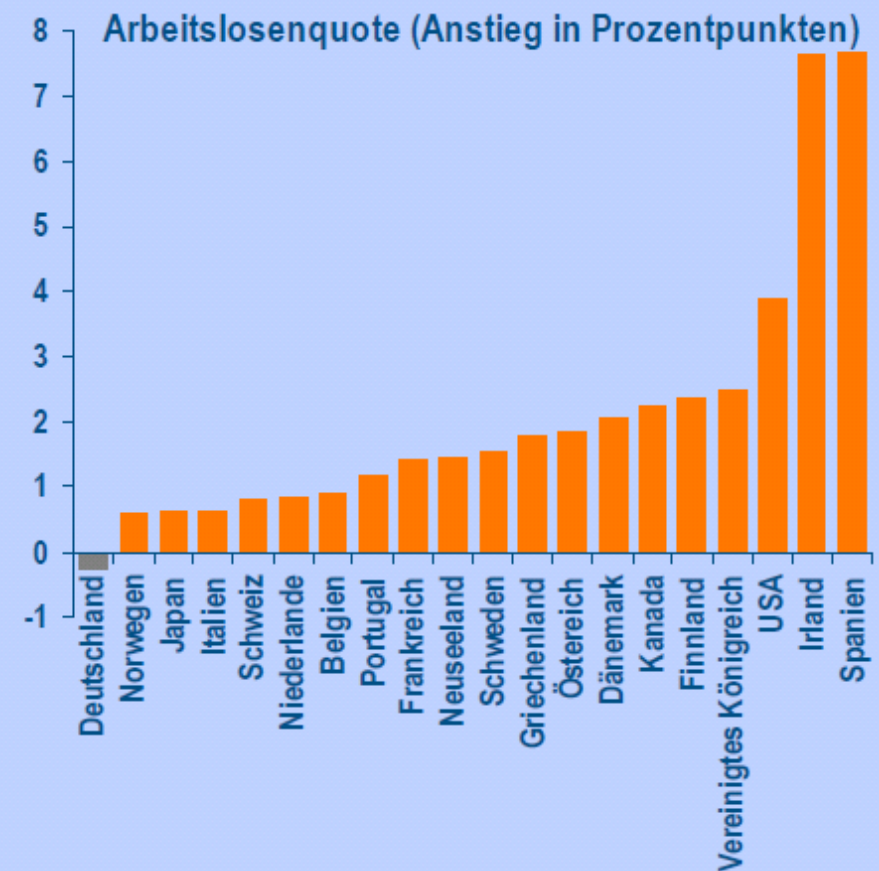
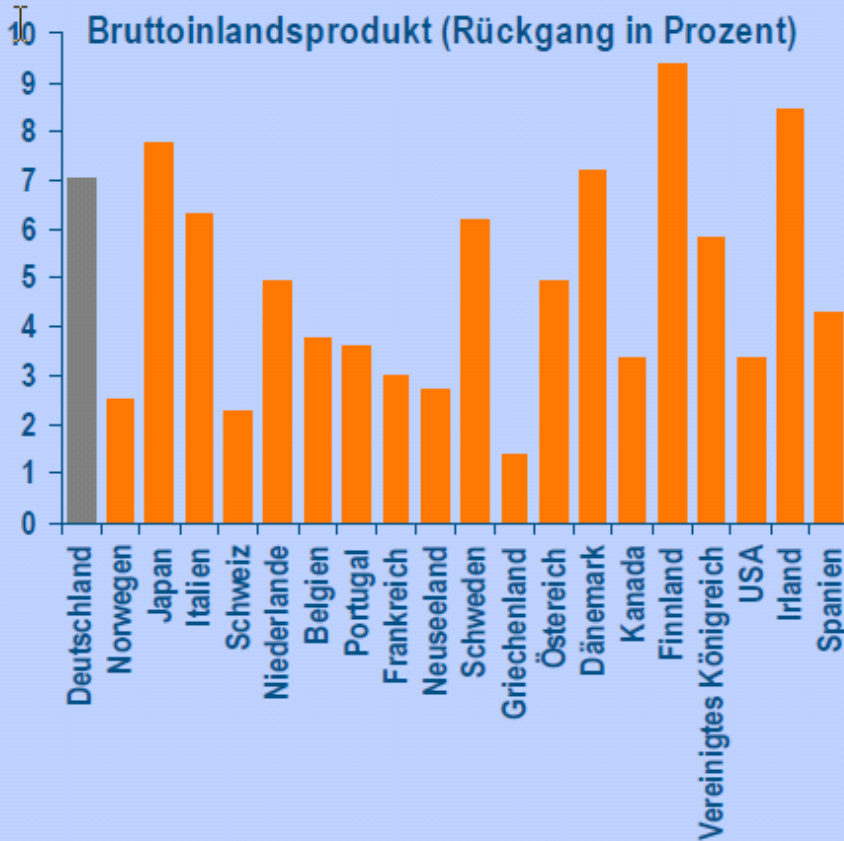
Short-time work (orange) and unemployment (grey) (in 1.000)



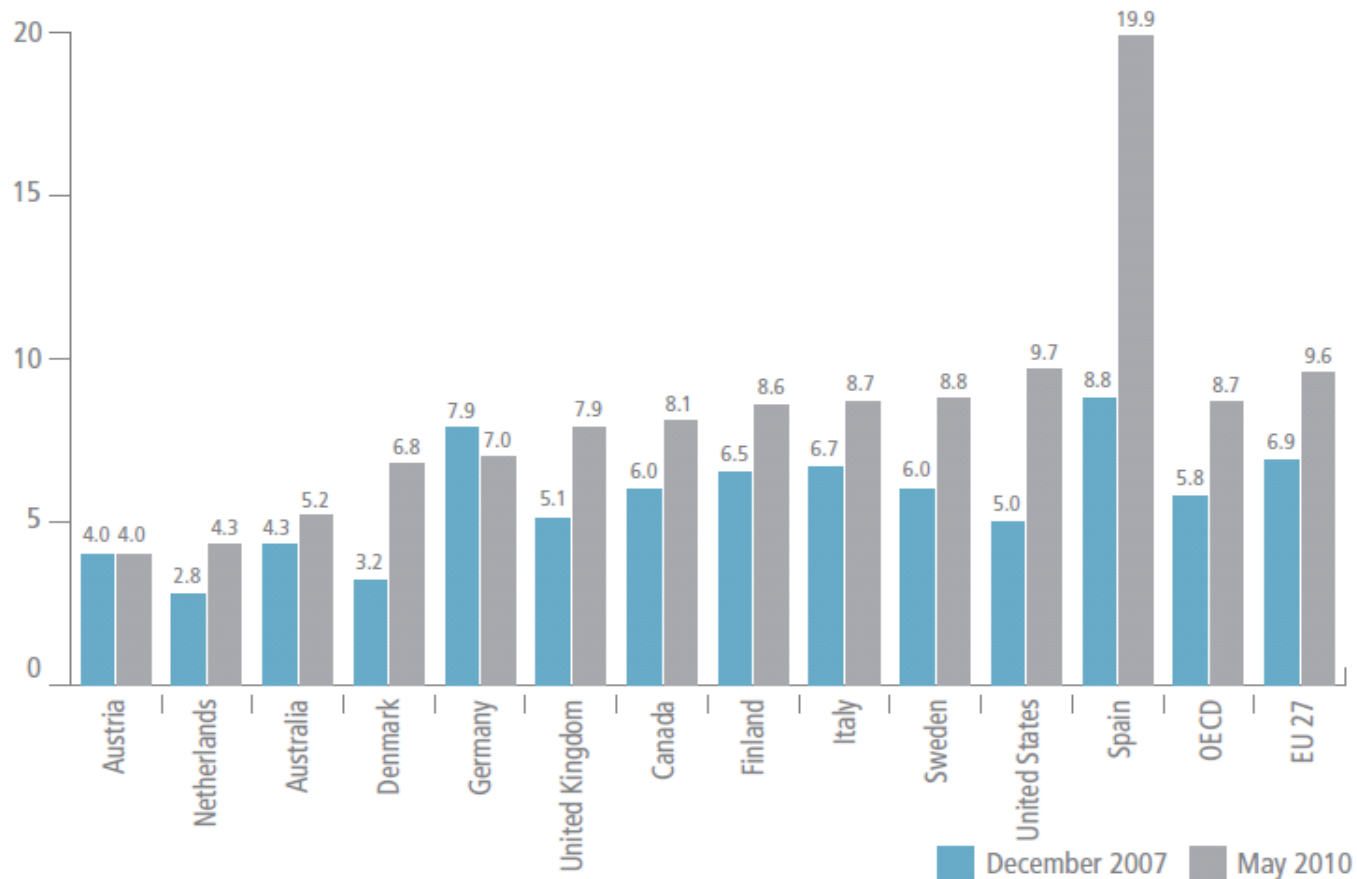
International effects of the crisis

Drop of GDP and rise of unemployment

(in percent in 2009)



Change in unemployment in OECD countries



Note: Data for Switzerland are not available.

Sources: OECD.

BertelsmannStiftung

Main reasons for the “German Beschäftigungswunder”

- Reduction of working time by internal company decisions (intensive use working time accounts), flexible collective agreements and attractive short-time work legislation.
- Demographic changes start to take effect on the supply of workers (per year, a surplus of 140.000 people leave the labour market than young people entering it).
- Consciousness of enterprises of the need to keep their skilled workers employed (no “hire and fire” mentality).
- Flexible labour market - especially increased use of temporary work and more efficient public employment services (“Hartz”-reforms).
- Tradition of responsible social partnership – change in the past to flexible collective agreements with moderate wage increases paid off during the crisis.

Thank you

for your attention!

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