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# German labour market and the crisis

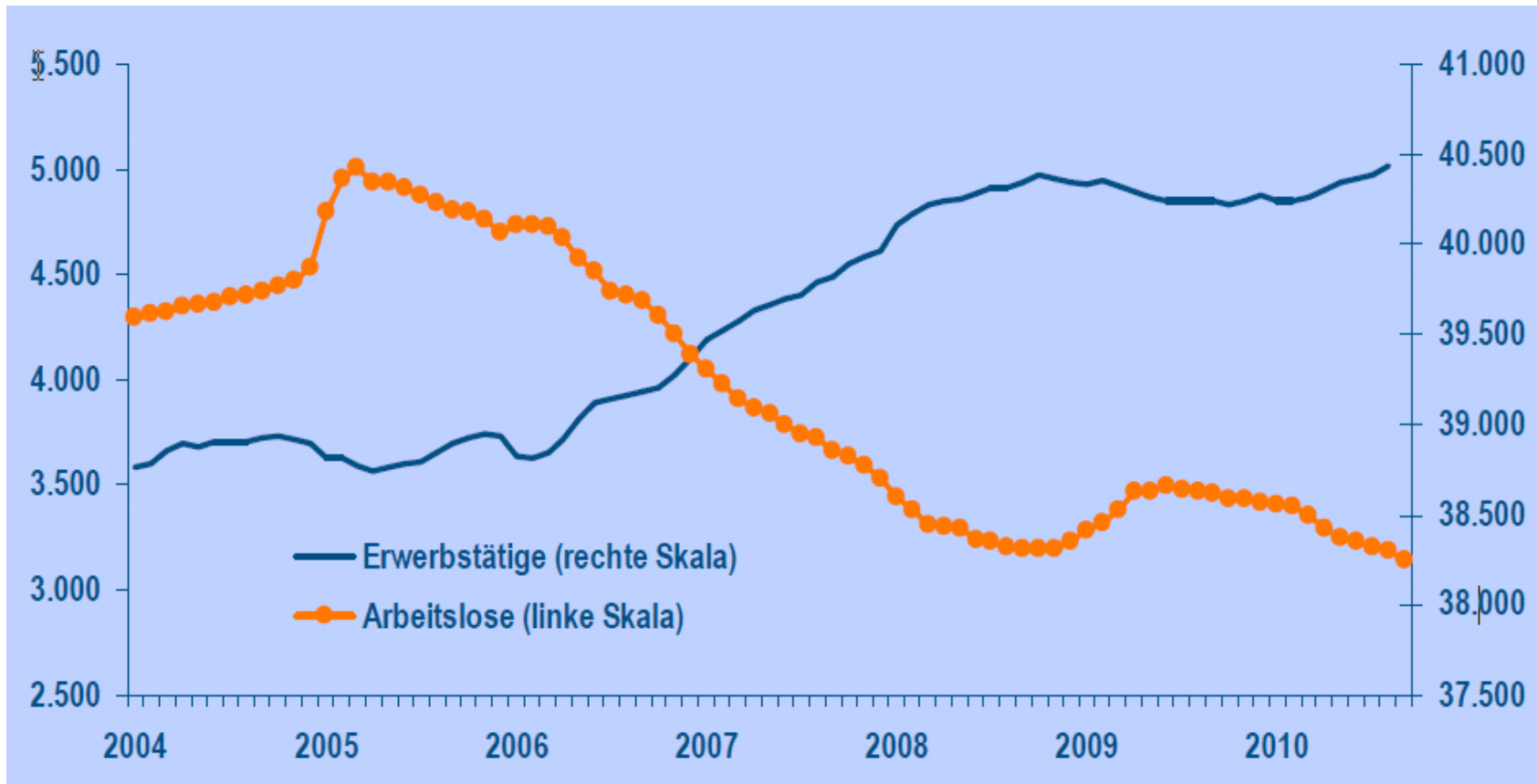
European Social Partner seminar  
„The implementation of flexicurity and the role of social partners“

Lisbon, 9/10 December 2010

Jan Dannenbring, Head of unit for labour market policies

# Labour market development in Germany

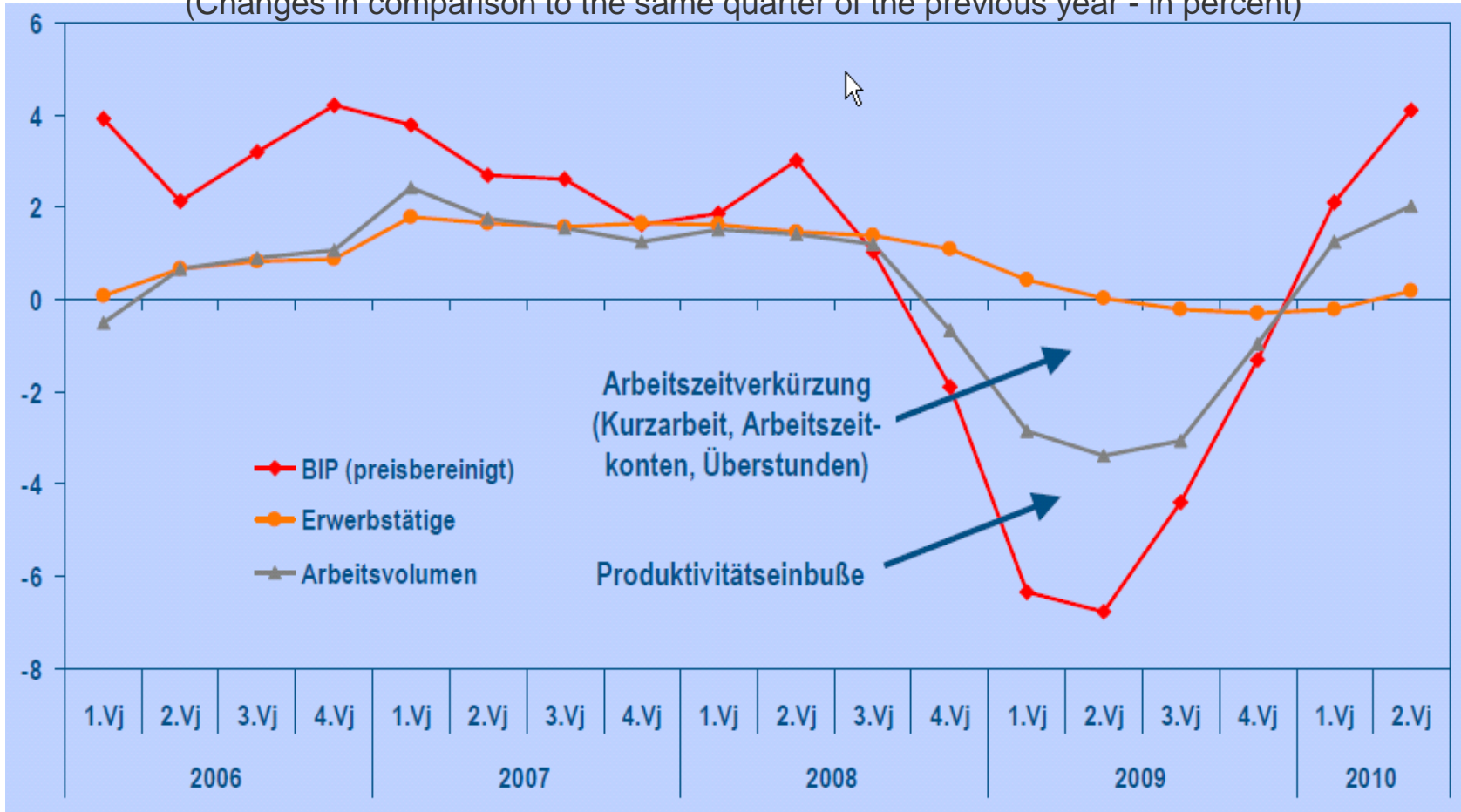
Number of employed (blue) and unemployed (orange) persons  
(in thousand)



# Reaction of the labour market to the crisis

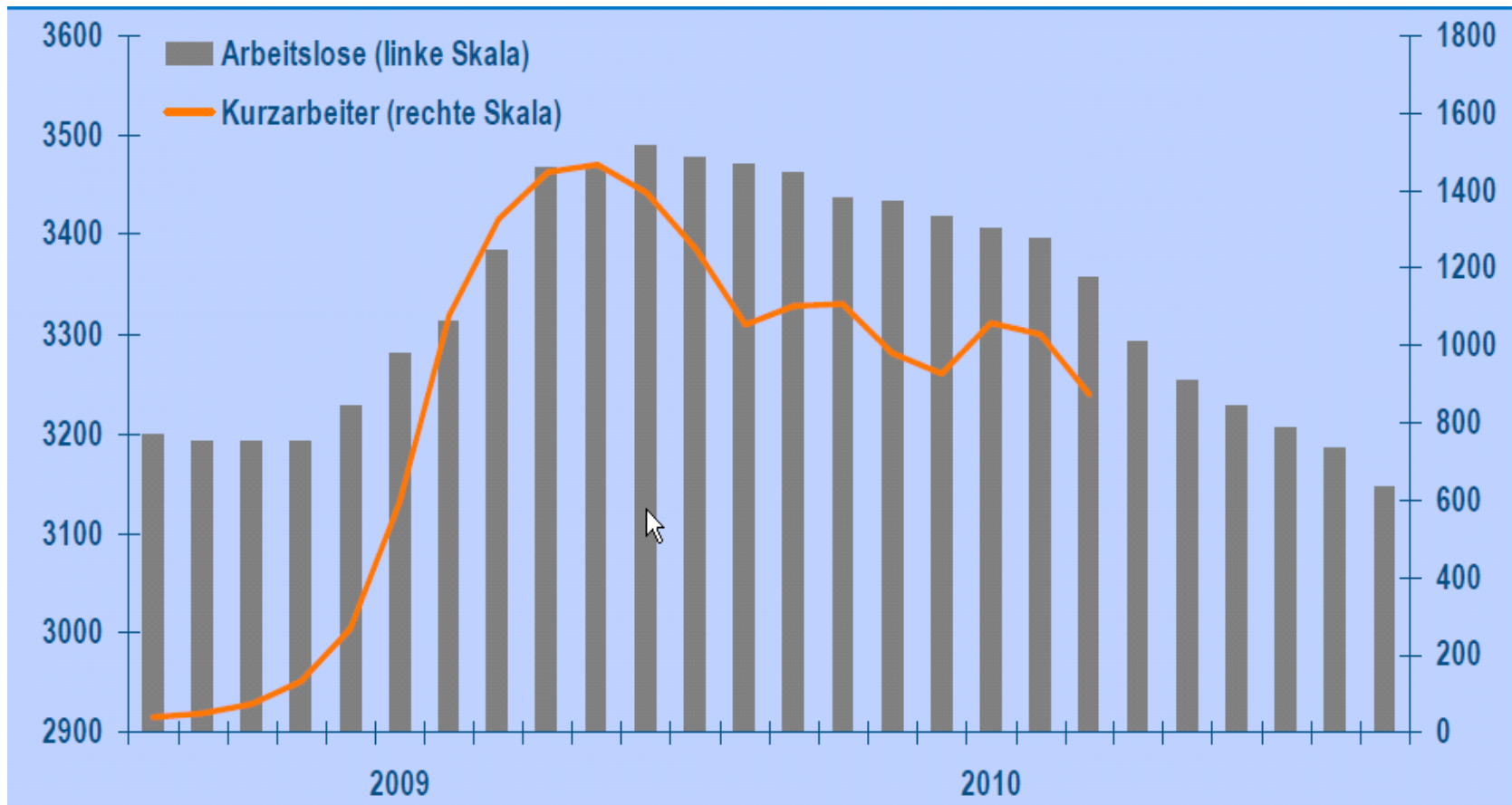
## GDP – Employment – Work volume

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



# Importance of short-time work

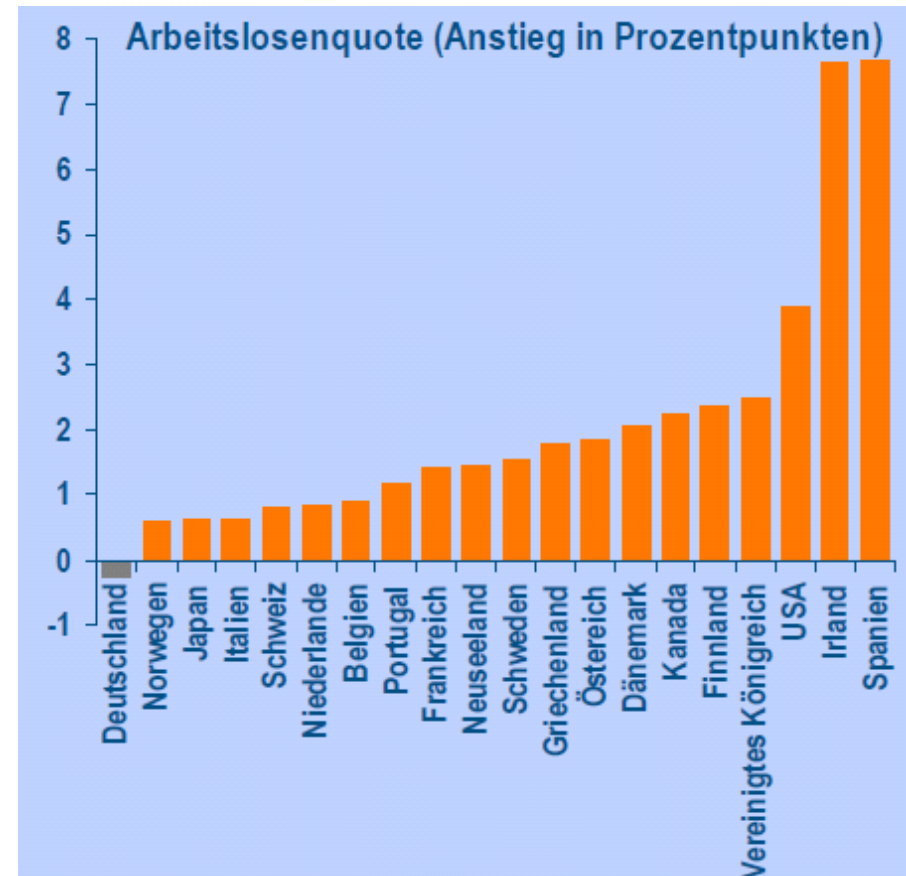
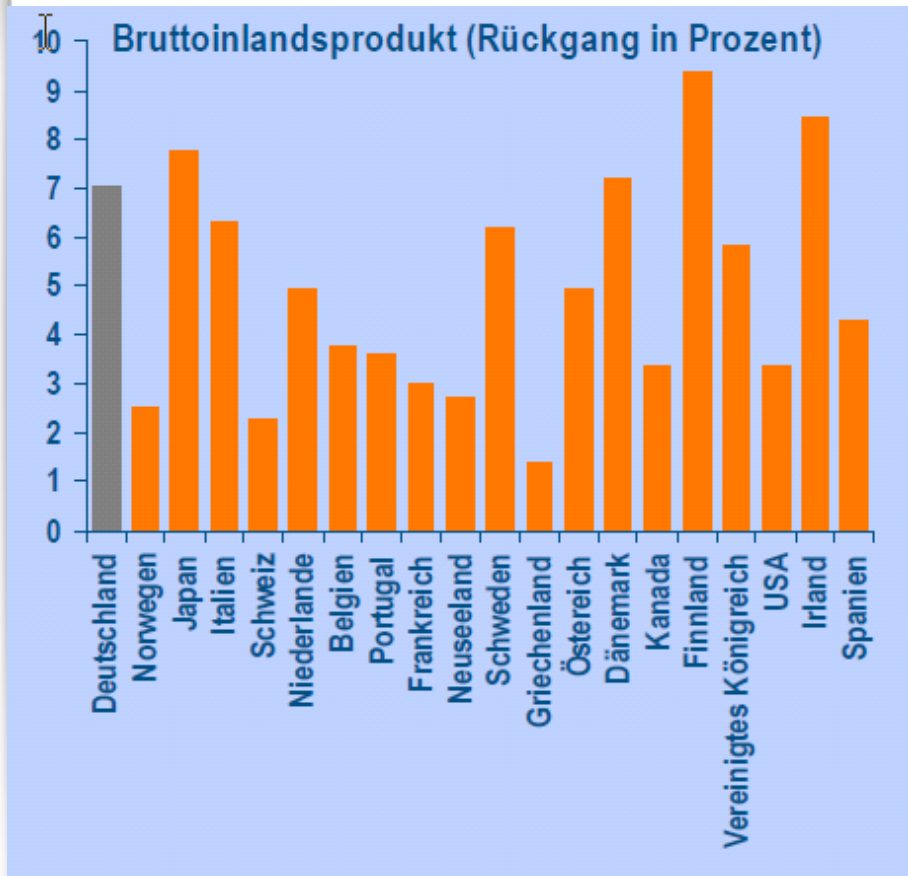
Short-time work (orange) and unemployment (grey) (in 1.000)



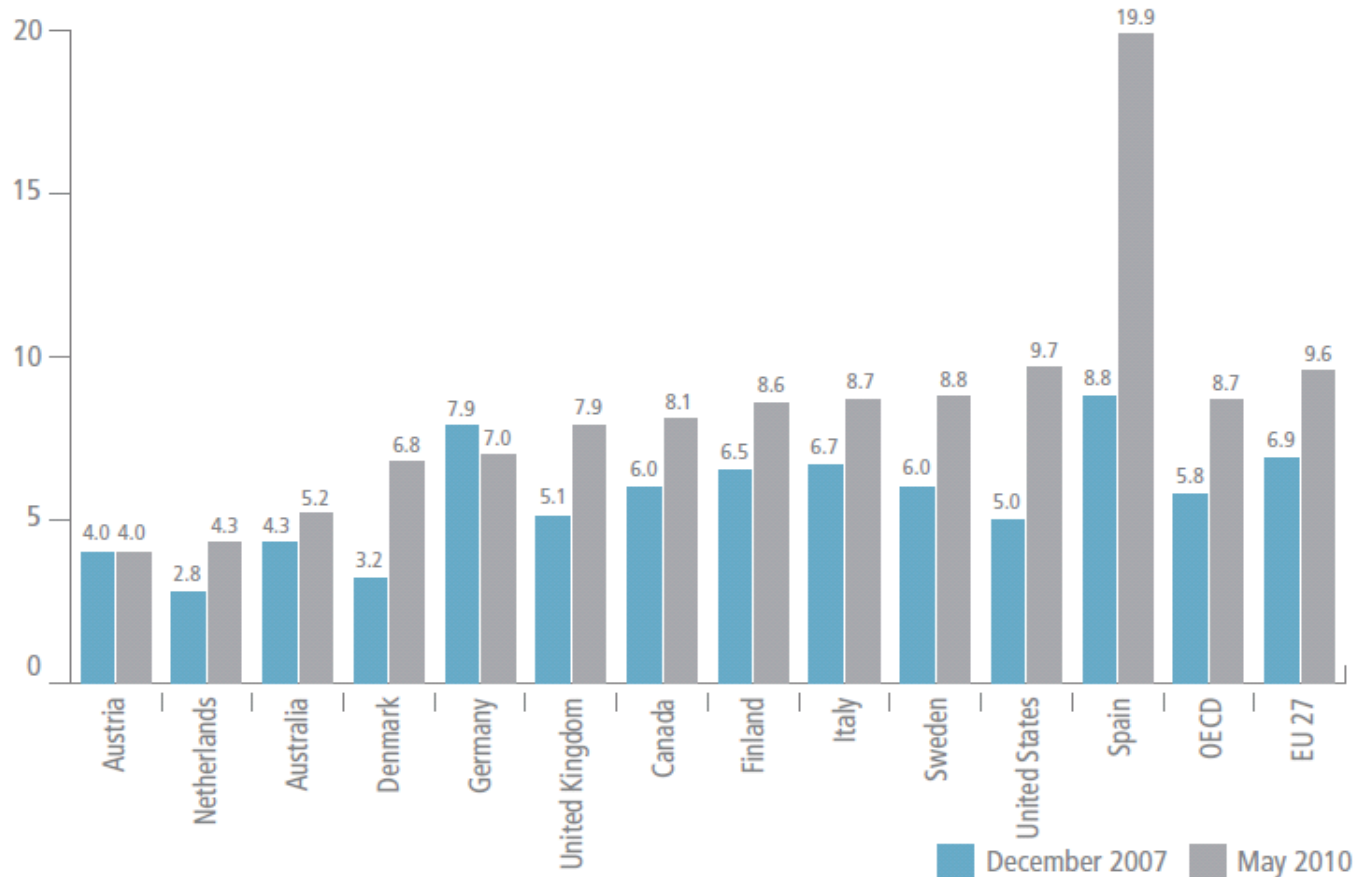
# International effects of the crisis

## 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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