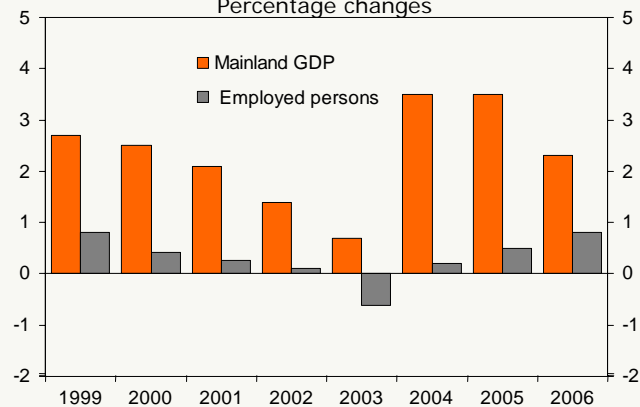


Norwegian Economy - A Star Performer with Challenges

*Eurochambres, Stavanger
September 30th 2005
Minister of Finance Per-Kristian Foss*

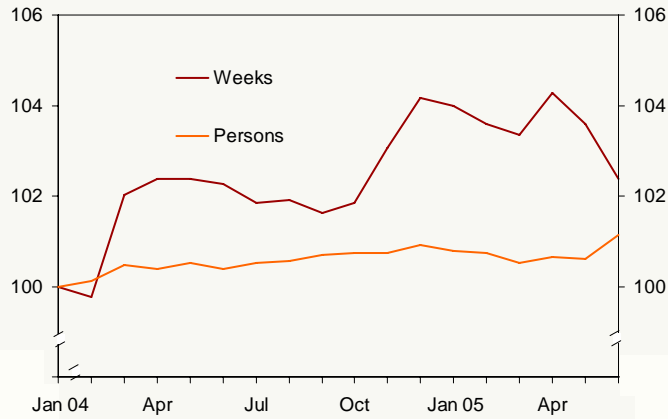
Robust growth in the Norwegian economy

GDP growth, Mainland Norway and employment growth
Percentage changes



Improved labour market

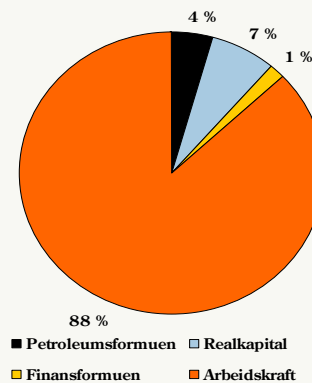
January 2004 = 100



The labour force is our most important asset

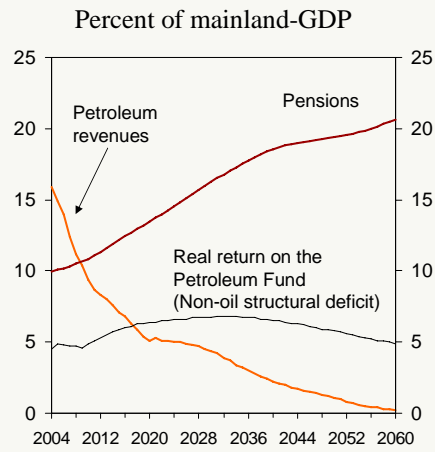
- Pension and tax reform must strengthen work incentives
- Welfare scheme reforms: More people at work - fewer on benefits
- Good policy fundamentals - sustainable macroeconomic policy

National wealth per capita



Why we need a pension reform

- Safeguarding our pensions
- A sustainable pension scheme
- Strengthen work incentives



Tax reform to make Norway more competitive

- Make work effort more profitable
- The tax rate differential between labour and capital income has become too high
- The wealth tax will be reduced and eventually abolished