

Economists' hall of fame

■ How should the Treasury go about picking the members of its new economic panel to improve economic forecasting? The FT has just helpfully drawn up a fame-ranking of economists in the UK which might help the Great George Street mandarins. It is based on the number of articles in heavier, as distinct from tabloid, newspapers, in which a particular dismal scientist is mentioned. Each name is counted only once per article.

By that yardstick, Britain's best known economist over the 12 months to mid-October is Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs, with 161 mentions.

The top 10 also includes Tim Congdon, Patrick Minford, Bill Martin and Peter Warburton – all members of the "Liverpool Six" group who've long said the Treasury was over-optimistic about predicting recovery – plus another vehement opponent of government policies in Neil Mackinnon of Citibank.

Three of the four remaining top-tenners are Roger Bootle of Greenwell Montagu, Gerard Lyons of DKB and Peter Spencer of Kleinwort Benson. The other is Adam Smith who's unlikely to be asked to join the panel committee on account of having been dead for 202 years.