

International Figures of the Week

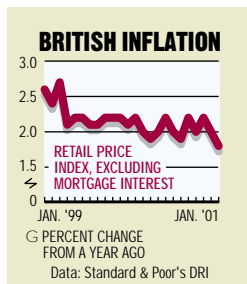
COUNTRY FOCUS / BRITAIN

With his reelection bid just around the corner, Prime Minister Tony Blair must have smiled broadly when he saw the January reports on unemployment and inflation. But the data may have left the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee scratching their heads over their next move on interest rates.

Claimant count unemployment, those workers claiming jobless benefits, fell a surprisingly large 25,500, lowering this gauge of joblessness to a 25-year low of one million, a politically significant mark. At

the same time, underlying inflation, measured by the retail price index less mortgage payments, fell to 1.8%, also a 25-year low.

For the MPC, however, the labor market data only widened the gap between the committee's doves and hawks, especially coming after the MPC's Feb. 8 rate cut. Tighter labor markets pushed up wage growth in the three months to December to 4.4%, the fastest pace in seven months. With elections expected in May, the MPC may be content to sit on the sidelines in coming months.



STOCK INDEXES

	FEB. 14	FEB. 7	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /All Ordinaires	3294.8	3262.8	4.1%
BRAZIL /Bovespa	17120.1	16812.4	-5.5
BRITAIN /FTSE100	6176.2	6225.6	0.5
CANADA /TSE 300	8911.5	9137.6	-5.5
FRANCE /CAC 40	5644.2	5752.1	-6.6
GERMANY /DAX	6479.9	6579.0	-13.5
HONG KONG /Hang Seng	15860.4	16049.5	-6.9
ITALY /MIB 30	42304.0	43083.0	-10.5
JAPAN /Nikkei 225	13284.1	13366.0	-32.2
MEXICO /IPC 35	6360.1	6350.4	-16.3
SOUTH KOREA /Composite	603.8	576.2	-31.3
SPAIN /IBEX 35	9759.7	9880.7	-20.2
UNITED STATES /Dow Jones	10795.4	10946.7	2.2

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	GDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.8888	0.00151	1.1314	0.1944	16.2260	1.7337	1.2362	2.7501	0.9511	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	1.9860	0.00159	1.1889	0.2044	0.0171	1.8264	1.2996	2.8921	-	1.0515
BRITISH POUND	0.6867	0.00055	0.4114	0.0708	5.9002	0.6303	0.4496	-	0.3458	0.3636
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5282	0.00122	0.9150	0.1573	13.1225	1.4029	-	2.2254	0.7695	0.8090
EUROPEAN EURO	1.0893	0.00087	0.6522	0.1123	9.3524	-	0.7128	1.5863	0.5485	0.5767
JAPANESE YEN	116.42	0.09400	69.71	11.9835	-	106.86	76.19	169.52	58.6203	61.6400
MEXICAN PESO	9.7150	0.00777	5.8156	-	0.0834	8.916	6.357	14.1441	4.8917	5.1435
SWISS FRANG	1.6705	0.00134	-	0.1720	1.4344	1.5335	1.0931	2.4325	0.8411	0.8844
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1251.00	-	748.878	128.770	10.746	1148.400	818.610	1821.64	629.909	662.325
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00080	0.5986	0.1029	8.5900	0.9180	0.6544	1.4562	0.5035	0.5294

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Feb. 14, 2001

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	FEB. 14	FEB. 7	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /Overnight cash	5.75	6.22	5.50
BRAZIL /Selic Overnight	15.12	15.17	18.87
BRITAIN /Base Lending	6.00	6.00	5.75
CANADA /Overnite Financing	5.75	5.75	5.25
EURO ZONE /Refinance	4.75	4.75	3.25
HONG KONG /Interbank Overnight	5.25	5.00	6.50
JAPAN /Overnight Call	0.24	0.24	0.02
MEXICO /One-day Loan	16.00*	17.65	16.25
SOUTH KOREA /Discount	5.13	5.37	5.06
UNITED STATES /Federal Funds Rate	5.46*	5.48	5.85

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *Feb. 13

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	FEB. 14	FEB. 7	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.30	5.34	7.10
BRITAIN	4.72	4.84	5.59
CANADA	5.41	5.44	6.45
FRANCE	4.91	4.92	5.68
GERMANY	4.79	4.77	5.56
HONG KONG	5.99	6.06	7.66
ITALY	5.16	5.15	5.84
JAPAN	1.38	1.48	1.80
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	6.49	6.83	8.90
SPAIN	5.04	5.03	5.82
UNITED STATES	5.06	5.18	6.55

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI