

International Figures of the Week

COUNTRY FOCUS / FRANCE

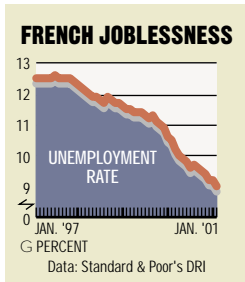
French industrial companies continue to worry about how the U.S. slowdown will affect their orders and production, but French consumers are signaling that they are willing and able to take up some of the slack, especially with labor markets so strong.

The January unemployment rate fell from 9.2% in December to 9%, the lowest level in a decade. Improving job markets have boosted consumer confidence to record levels, and January household spending on manufactured goods jumped 3.2% from

December, far exceeding expectations. A rebound in car sales, and increased outlays for clothing and household goods led the advance.

The data bolstered a recent optimistic assessment of first-quarter economic growth by the Bank of France, and they suggest that the government's tax cuts are already stimulating demand.

Even so, companies are still fretting over foreign demand. French business confidence fell for the fourth month in a row in February, amid weaker foreign orders and falling output expectations.



STOCK INDEXES

	FEB. 28	FEB. 21	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /All Ordinaires	3274.1	3261.1	2.4%
BRAZIL /Bovespa	15891.4	15593.9	-11.5
BRITAIN /FTSE100	5917.9	5972.4	-7.0
CANADA /TSE 300	8078.7	8060.8	-14.2
FRANCE /CAC 40	5367.5	5474.4	-14.2
GERMANY /DAX	6208.2	6348.0	-19.7
HONG KONG /Hang Seng	14787.9	15351.5	-12.2
ITALY /MIB 30	40203.0	40871.0	-19.2
JAPAN /Nikkei 225	12883.5	13100.1	-35.8
MEXICO /IPC 35	6032.1	6007.7	-20.8
SOUTH KOREA /Composite	578.1	594.5	-30.2
SPAIN /IBEX 35	9551.4	9592.1	-23.8
UNITED STATES /Dow Jones	10495.3	10526.6	3.5

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.9006	0.00152	1.1389	0.1962	16.2100	1.7543	1.2370	2.7470	0.9294	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.0450	0.00163	1.2243	0.2112	0.0174	1.8792	1.3304	2.9552	-	1.0760
BRITISH POUND	0.6920	0.00055	0.4146	0.0715	5.9012	0.6388	0.4507	-	0.3384	0.3641
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5371	0.00123	0.9200	0.1587	13.0931	1.4188	-	2.2210	0.7516	0.8084
EUROPEAN EURO	1.0833	0.00086	0.6486	0.1118	9.2289	-	0.7048	1.5654	0.5297	0.5698
JAPANESE YEN	117.36	0.09400	70.26	12.1177	-	108.33	76.35	169.59	57.3888	61.7500
MEXICAN PESO	9.6850	0.00772	5.7980	-	0.0825	8.943	6.301	13.9939	4.7359	5.0958
SWISS FRANC	1.6704	0.00133	-	0.1725	1.4232	1.5417	1.0870	2.4135	0.8168	0.8788
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1254.50	-	751.018	129.530	10.689	1158.000	816.147	1812.69	613.447	660.055
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00080	0.5986	0.1033	8.5204	0.9231	0.6506	1.4450	0.4890	0.5261

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Feb. 28, 2001

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	FEB. 28	FEB. 21	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /Overnight cash	5.75	5.73	5.50
BRAZIL /Selic Overnight	15.28*	15.27	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	5.50	5.50	5.75
JAPAN /Overnight Call	0.26	0.25	0.02
MEXICO /One-day Loan	15.25**	16.45	14.20
SOUTH KOREA /Discount	5.15	4.86	5.11
UNITED STATES /Federal Funds Rate	5.49**	5.57	5.85

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *Feb. 23, **Feb. 27

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	FEB. 28	FEB. 21	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.24	5.35	6.54
BRITAIN	4.78	4.79	5.45
CANADA	5.37	5.49	6.10
FRANCE	4.90	4.96	5.60
GERMANY	4.75	4.81	5.49
HONG KONG	5.88	6.10	7.69
ITALY	5.16	5.22	5.75
JAPAN	1.34	1.38	1.86
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	6.82	6.66	8.88
SPAIN	5.02	5.09	5.70
UNITED STATES	5.05	5.10	6.41

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