

International Figures of the Week

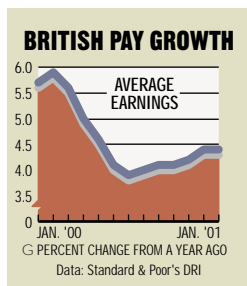
COUNTRY FOCUS / BRITAIN

Britain's latest labor-market data contained good news for both the markets and the governing Labor Party. Unemployment, based on the count of those seeking jobless benefits, fell below one million for the first time in 25 years, but pay did not speed up as analysts had feared, keeping rate-cut hopes alive.

Average earnings growth in the three months to January held at an annual rate of 4.4%, and the pace for January alone actually fell to 3.9%. However, the monetary authorities may re-

quire more such upbeat readings before they move, especially in light of strong anecdotal evidence of very tight labor markets and surveys showing that pay is still accelerating.

Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected to call elections in early May, a year earlier than required, and job markets will be a prime campaign focus. Although the claimant count of unemployment is now 996,200, the preferred Labor Force survey puts joblessness at 1.5 million. Still, that figure is the lowest recorded since 1984.



STOCK INDEXES

	MAR. 14	MAR. 7	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /All Ordinaires	3211.0	3306.2	1.6%
BRAZIL /Bovespa	15244.9	16395.2	-12.3
BRITAIN /FTSE100	5625.9	6001.8	-12.7
CANADA /TSE 300	7806.9	8301.8	-16.0
FRANCE /CAC 40	5115.5	5483.7	-17.3
GERMANY /DAX	5794.1	6305.6	-21.9
HONG KONG /Hang Seng	13330.8	14177.4	-20.4
ITALY /MIB 30	37673.0	39950.0	-21.1
JAPAN /Nikkei 225	11843.6	12723.9	-37.9
MEXICO /IPC 35	5813.8	6331.3	-27.2
SOUTH KOREA /Composite	543.3	568.6	-35.1
SPAIN /IBEX 35	9393.0	9923.3	-23.5
UNITED STATES /Dow Jones	9973.5	10729.6	-1.6

Data: BRIDGE Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	2.0180	0.00158	1.1920	0.2105	16.6490	1.8389	1.2961	2.9118	0.9725	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.0750	0.00162	1.2287	0.2165	0.0171	1.8900	1.3323	2.9990	-	1.0282
BRITISH POUND	0.6919	0.00054	0.4094	0.0722	5.7177	0.6305	0.4445	-	0.3334	0.3428
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5575	0.00122	0.9209	0.1625	12.8628	1.4193	-	2.2508	0.7506	0.7715
EUROPEAN EURO	1.0974	0.00086	0.6496	0.1145	9.0666	-	0.7046	1.5861	0.5289	0.5433
JAPANESE YEN	121.01	0.09500	71.68	12.6249	-	110.26	77.72	174.89	58.3181	59.9700
MEXICAN PESO	9.5850	0.00750	5.6756	-	0.0792	8.738	6.154	13.8513	4.6193	4.7498
SWISS FRANC	1.6888	0.00132	-	0.1762	1.3952	1.5389	1.0842	2.4408	0.8139	0.8369
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1278.00	-	756.750	133.333	10.561	1164.600	820.546	1847.09	615.904	633.300
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00078	0.5921	0.1043	8.2641	0.9112	0.6421	1.4453	0.4819	0.4955

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

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	MAR. 14	MAR. 7	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /Overnight cash	5.49	5.50	5.50
BRAZIL /Selic Overnight	15.13	15.17	18.88
BRITAIN /Base Lending	5.75	5.75	5.75
CANADA /Overnite Financing	5.25	5.25	5.25
EURO ZONE /Refinance	4.75	4.75	3.25
HONG KONG /Interbank Overnight	5.50	5.13	5.50
JAPAN /Overnight Call	0.14	0.15	0.02
MEXICO /One-day Loan	16.30*	17.00	14.30
SOUTH KOREA /Discount	5.00	5.08	5.06
UNITED STATES /Federal Funds Rate	5.50*	5.39	5.80

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

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	MAR. 14	MAR. 7	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	4.95	5.15	6.58
BRITAIN	4.73	4.72	5.31
CANADA	5.29	5.35	6.06
FRANCE	4.89	4.88	5.45
GERMANY	4.73	4.74	5.35
HONG KONG	5.99	5.96	7.64
ITALY	5.16	5.16	5.60
JAPAN	1.17	1.17	1.80
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	7.02	7.06	9.10
SPAIN	5.02	5.02	5.52
UNITED STATES	4.92	4.96	6.29

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