

# International Figures of the Week

## COUNTRY FOCUS / GERMANY

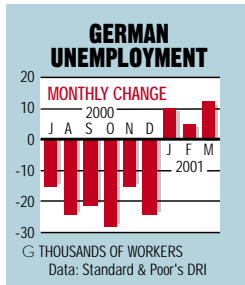
More disappointing news from Germany: March unemployment increased for the third month in a row. The numbers imply that the U.S.-led global slowdown is already hitting the German economy.

Not only is the government's forecast of 2.75% economic growth this year looking shaky, but many economists now believe that growth of even 2% could be difficult to achieve.

Unemployment in March rose by 12,000, and the jobless rate held at 9.3%, where it has been since Janu-

ary. Since December seasonally adjusted unemployment has increased by 27,000, after steady declines in the previous 1½ years. An unusually severe winter, which affected construction, accounted for some of the rise, but not all, and March weather was more seasonable.

Confidence levels of German business executives already have fallen sharply, and the apparent change in the trend of the job market data suggests that businesses are becoming increasingly cautious about their hiring plans.



## STOCK INDEXES

	APR. 4	MAR. 28	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/All Ordinaires	3138.9	3180.5	0.0%
BRAZIL/Bovespa	13854.8	16599.4	-17.1
BRITAIN/FTSE100	5535.7	6039.9	-13.2
CANADA/TSE 300	7415.5	8937.8	-19.6
FRANCE/CAC 40	5071.8	5684.1	-16.0
GERMANY/DAX	5597.7	6435.0	-23.6
HONG KONG/ Hang Seng	12063.7	14589.6	-26.1
ITALY/MIB 30	38595.0	41972.0	-13.6
JAPAN/Nikkei 225	13242.8	13785.7	-35.3
MEXICO/IPC 35	5561.3	5857.5	-23.5
SOUTH KOREA/Composite	493.7	521.4	-40.5
SPAIN/IBEX 35	9172.4	9200.9	-19.4
UNITED STATES/Dow Jones	9515.4	10960.5	-13.8

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

## CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	2.0469	0.00150	1.2063	0.2175	16.3320	1.8447	1.3016	2.9312	0.9450	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.1660	0.00158	1.2766	0.2302	0.0173	1.9550	1.3768	3.1023	-	1.0582
BRITISH POUND	0.6982	0.00051	0.4116	0.0742	5.5717	0.6294	0.4441	-	0.3223	0.3411
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5732	0.00115	0.9268	0.1672	12.5473	1.4178	-	2.2528	0.7263	0.7682
EUROPEAN EURO	1.1095	0.00081	0.6540	0.1179	8.8539	-	0.7054	1.5890	0.5122	0.5422
JAPANESE YEN	125.33	0.09500	73.86	13.3188	-	112.96	79.68	179.48	57.8624	61.2200
MEXICAN PESO	9.4100	0.00688	5.5461	-	0.0751	8.480	5.981	13.4756	4.3444	4.5972
SWISS FRANC	1.6967	0.00124	-	0.1803	1.3538	1.5292	1.0789	2.4298	0.7833	0.8289
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1368.00	-	806.271	145.377	10.915	1232.900	869.565	1959.04	631.579	668.328
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00073	0.5893	0.1063	7.9789	0.9013	0.6357	1.4321	0.4617	0.4886

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Apr. 4, 2001

## CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	APR. 4	MAR. 28	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/Overnight cash	5.49	5.50	5.50
BRAZIL/Selic Overnight	15.81	15.86	18.60
BRITAIN/Base Lending	5.75	5.75	6.00
CANADA/Overnite Financing	5.25	5.25	5.50
EURO ZONE/Refinance	4.75	4.75	3.50
HONG KONG/Interbank Overnight	4.69	4.50	6.75
JAPAN/Overnight Call	0.03	0.02	0.02
MEXICO/One-day Loan	16.00*	15.50	14.00
SOUTH KOREA/Discount	5.10	5.10	5.19
UNITED STATES/Federal Funds Rate	5.10*	5.04	5.98

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*Apr. 3

## GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	APR. 4	MAR. 28	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.18	5.25	6.29
BRITAIN	4.73	4.64	5.23
CANADA	5.46	5.47	5.82
FRANCE	4.87	4.83	5.28
GERMANY	4.70	4.67	5.19
HONG KONG	6.15	6.16	7.33
ITALY	5.12	5.12	5.45
JAPAN	1.30	1.24	1.78
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	8.03	7.31	9.00
SPAIN	5.00*	4.15	5.42
UNITED STATES	4.97	4.84	5.88

DATA: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*Apr. 3