

# International Figures of the Week

## COUNTRY FOCUS / FRANCE

France's industrial activity in February did not meet expectations, despite healthy growth in the output of consumer goods.

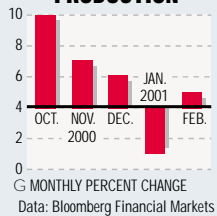
Total industrial production edged up just 0.1% in February, much less than the 0.3% gain projected by private economists. Industrial activity has been slowing since late 2000, and output actually fell a revised 0.2% in January. The

latest data show that French consumer demand remains healthy, but exports and capital-goods orders are slowing. Consumer goods production

rose 1% in February, but output of industrial supplies such as metals and chemicals fell 0.5%. Output is expected to weaken further as global demand softens, led by slower U.S. growth.

Thanks in part to a slowdown in exports, the French government has cut its forecast for economic growth in 2001. Real gross domestic product is now expected to increase by 2.9% instead of 3.3%. The downward revision adds to the argument that the European Central Bank should cut interest rates soon.

### FRENCH INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION



## STOCK INDEXES

	APR. 18	APR. 11	% CHG. YEAR AGO
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> /All Ordinaires	3219.5	3198.5	5.8%
<b>BRAZIL</b> /Bovespa	14955.4	14818.8	0.2
<b>BRITAIN</b> /FTSE100	5890.2	5788.1	-4.8
<b>CANADA</b> /TSE 300	8131.2	7712.7	-10.0
<b>FRANCE</b> /CAC 40	5505.1	5361.5	-10.7
<b>GERMANY</b> /DAX	6164.9	5951.2	-14.6
<b>HONG KONG</b> /Hang Seng	12972.8	12706.4	-15.9
<b>ITALY</b> /MIB 30	40795.0	39808.0	-7.0
<b>JAPAN</b> /Nikkei 225	13641.8	13174.9	-28.5
<b>MEXICO</b> /IPC 35	6134.6	6007.2	-4.8
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b> /Composite	540.0	507.5	-28.5
<b>SPAIN</b> /IBEX 35	9797.8	9613.9	-13.6
<b>UNITED STATES</b> /Dow Jones	10615.8	10013.5	-0.6

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

## CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
<b>AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR</b>	1.9863	0.00151	1.1458	0.2149	16.2630	1.7534	1.2705	2.8355	0.9107	-
<b>BRAZILIAN REAL</b>	2.1810	0.00166	1.2587	0.2359	0.0179	1.9052	1.3948	3.1135	-	1.0980
<b>BRITISH POUND</b>	0.7005	0.00053	0.4041	0.0758	5.7355	0.6184	0.4481	-	0.3212	0.3529
<b>CANADIAN DOLLAR</b>	1.5637	0.00119	0.9018	0.1691	12.8010	1.3801	-	2.2307	0.7170	0.7872
<b>EUROPEAN EURO</b>	1.1330	0.00086	0.6538	0.1226	9.2795	-	0.7246	1.6172	0.5195	0.5705
<b>JAPANESE YEN</b>	122.14	0.09400	70.44	13.2115	-	107.81	78.11	174.33	56.0018	61.4900
<b>MEXICAN PESO</b>	9.2450	0.00704	5.3356	-	0.0757	8.157	5.912	13.1977	4.2389	4.6544
<b>SWISS FRANC</b>	1.7327	0.00132	-	0.1874	1.4195	1.5294	1.1087	2.4733	0.7945	0.8728
<b>SOUTH KOREAN WON</b>	1312.50	-	757.488	141.969	10.746	1158.500	839.355	1872.61	601.788	660.776
<b>U.S. DOLLAR</b>	-	0.00076	0.5771	0.1082	8.1877	0.8827	0.6395	1.4274	0.4585	0.5035

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Apr. 18, 2001

## CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	APR. 18	APR. 11	YEAR AGO
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> /Overnight cash	5.00	5.00	5.75
<b>BRAZIL</b> /Selic Overnight	15.87	15.84	18.63
<b>BRITAIN</b> /Base Lending	5.50	5.75	6.00
<b>CANADA</b> /Overnite Financing	5.00	5.25	5.50
<b>EURO ZONE</b> /Refinance	4.75	4.75	3.50
<b>HONG KONG</b> /Interbank Overnight	4.69	4.50	6.13
<b>JAPAN</b> /Overnight Call	0.02	0.02	0.02
<b>MEXICO</b> /One-day Loan	15.50*	15.10	12.00
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b> /Discount	5.01	5.02	5.19
<b>UNITED STATES</b> /Federal Funds Rate	4.99*	4.96	5.93

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*Apr. 17

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

	APR. 18	APR. 11	YEAR AGO
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	5.62	5.51	6.27
<b>BRITAIN</b>	4.94	4.75	5.27
<b>CANADA</b>	5.64	5.54	5.94
<b>FRANCE</b>	5.04	4.94	5.36
<b>GERMANY</b>	4.89	4.79	5.25
<b>HONG KONG</b>	6.27	6.19	7.38
<b>ITALY</b>	5.30	5.18	5.56
<b>JAPAN</b>	1.45	1.36	1.73
<b>SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)</b>	7.75	7.72	8.90
<b>SPAIN</b>	5.17	5.05	5.51
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	5.27	4.92	6.04

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