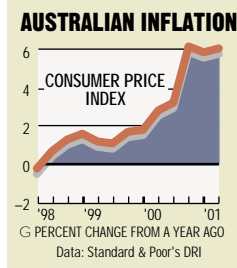


# International Figures of the Week

## COUNTRY FOCUS / AUSTRALIA

In hindsight, the timing of Australia's goods and services tax (GST) could have been better. The 10% value-added tax put into effect in July, 2000, has cut into demand and production at a time when the economy is weakening. It is also lifting inflation just when the Reserve Bank of Australia is trying to cut interest rates to stimulate economic growth.



the widely followed survey by the National Bank of Australia, business conditions in the first quarter dropped to an eight-year low.

Meanwhile, consumer inflation jumped in the first quarter. Annual inflation is now 6%, far above the Reserve Bank's 2% to 3% target. However, several temporary factors were at work, including the GST, and the central bank is still

The yearly pace of nonfarm gross domestic product slowed to 2.3% in the fourth quarter, from a 5.1% clip in the second quarter. Moreover, based on

likely to keep cutting interest rates. It has lowered rates three times, by 1% points since Feb. 7, and another cut in either May or June is a good bet.

## STOCK INDEXES

	APR. 25	APR. 18	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/All Ordinaires	3241.5	3219.5	5.1%
BRAZIL/Bovespa	14162.8	14955.4	-8.3
BRITAIN/FTSE100	5827.5	5890.2	-6.8
CANADA/TSE 300	7945.3	8131.2	-15.3
FRANCE/CAC 40	5407.8	5505.1	-15.4
GERMANY/DAX	6115.2	6164.9	-17.2
HONG KONG/Hang Seng	13249.6	12972.8	-13.0
ITALY/MIB 30	40116.0	40795.0	-11.6
JAPAN/Nikkei 225	13827.5	13641.8	-23.7
MEXICO/IPC 35	5933.7	6134.6	-12.1
SOUTH KOREA/Composite	566.3	540.0	-20.6
SPAIN/IBEX 35	9350.4	9797.8	-18.6
UNITED STATES/Dow Jones	10625.2	10615.8	-2.9

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

## CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.9730	0.00151	1.1571	0.2122	16.1910	1.7710	1.2745	2.8471	0.8621	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.2885	0.00175	1.3410	0.2461	0.0187	2.0192	1.4782	3.2980	-	1.1599
BRITISH POUND	0.6939	0.00053	0.4064	0.0747	5.6871	0.6229	0.4482	-	0.3032	0.3516
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5482	0.00118	0.9067	0.1665	12.6875	1.3898	-	2.2313	0.6765	0.7846
EUROPEAN EURO	1.1141	0.00085	0.6529	0.1199	9.1212	-	0.7196	1.6055	0.4868	0.5646
JAPANESE YEN	122.15	0.09500	71.57	13.1371	-	109.64	78.89	176.02	53.3756	61.9000
MEXICAN PESO	9.2981	0.00711	5.4483	-	0.0761	8.346	6.006	13.3981	4.0630	4.7127
SWISS FRANC	1.7066	0.00130	-	0.1835	1.3972	1.5318	1.1022	2.4594	0.7457	0.8650
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1307.80	-	766.319	140.652	10.707	1173.900	844.723	1884.74	571.466	662.848
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00076	0.5860	0.1076	8.1873	0.8977	0.6459	1.4412	0.4370	0.5069

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Apr. 25, 2001

## CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	APR. 25	APR. 18	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/Overnight cash	5.00*	5.00	5.75
BRAZIL/Selic Overnight	16.30	15.87	18.64
BRITAIN/Base Lending	6.00	5.50	6.00
CANADA/Overnite Financing	4.75	5.00	5.50
EURO ZONE/Refinance	4.75	4.75	3.50
HONG KONG/Interbank Overnight	4.94	4.69	6.75
JAPAN/Overnight Call	0.01	0.02	0.02
MEXICO/One-day Loan	15.70**	15.50	12.50
SOUTH KOREA/Discount	5.00	5.01	5.20
UNITED STATES/Federal Funds Rate	4.41**	4.99	5.99

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*Apr. 23, \*\*Apr. 24

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

	APR. 25	APR. 18	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.73	5.62	6.40
BRITAIN	4.98	4.94	5.34
CANADA	5.63*	5.64	6.10
FRANCE	5.10	5.04	5.45
GERMANY	4.96	4.89	5.33
HONG KONG	6.27	6.27	7.42
ITALY	5.34	5.30	5.63
JAPAN	1.32	1.45	1.76
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	8.04	7.75	8.96
SPAIN	5.20	5.17	5.58
UNITED STATES	5.19	5.27	6.13

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*Apr. 24