

International Figures of the Week

COUNTRY FOCUS / BRITAIN

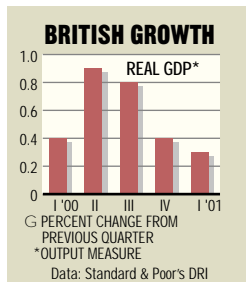
Despite signs of resilient domestic spending, the combination of the global slowdown and foot-and-mouth disease is hitting the British economy.

First-quarter gross domestic product grew 0.3% from the fourth quarter, the smallest advance in more than two years. The report showed softness in manufacturing output, which continued into the second quarter, based on the survey of purchasing managers. The purchasing managers' index fell to 47.8% in April, the lowest level in more than two years and the

second month in a row that the index has been below 50%, indicating that manufacturing activity is contracting.

For now, at least, households continue to spend. The Confederation of British Industry's April survey of retailers showed brisk buying, and March approvals of home loans rose smartly.

Still, economists are betting that the continued strength in domestic demand will not deter the Bank of England from cutting interest rates for a third time this year, possibly when it meets on May 9-10.



STOCK INDEXES

	MAY 2	APR. 25	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/All Ordinaires	3271.5	3241.5	6.3%
BRAZIL/Bovespa	14897.2	14162.8	-1.4
BRITAIN/FTSE100	5904.2	5827.5	-4.5
CANADA/TSE 300	8018.4	7945.3	-13.7
FRANCE/CAC 40	5572.9	5407.8	-13.4
GERMANY/DAX	6213.8	6115.2	-15.8
HONG KONG/Hang Seng	13814.2	13249.6	-11.3
ITALY/MIB 30	40885.0	40116.0	-11.8
JAPAN/Nikkei 225	14421.6	13827.5	-21.8
MEXICO/IPC 35	6117.5	5933.7	-4.6
SOUTH KOREA/Composite	583.7	566.3	-22.5
SPAIN/IBEX 35	9633.5	9350.4	-17.4
UNITED STATES/Dow Jones	10876.7	10625.2	3.8

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.9218	0.00147	1.1134	0.2071	15.8090	1.7183	1.2545	2.7565	0.8606	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.2330	0.00171	1.2936	0.2406	0.0184	1.9833	1.4580	3.2014	-	1.1619
BRITISH POUND	0.6975	0.00053	0.4039	0.0752	5.7352	0.6236	0.4557	-	0.3124	0.3630
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5315	0.00117	0.8864	0.1650	12.5875	1.3693	-	2.1953	0.6858	0.7972
EUROPEAN EURO	1.1184	0.00086	0.6475	0.1206	9.2119	-	0.7303	1.6035	0.5009	0.5820
JAPANESE YEN	121.43	0.09400	70.32	13.0851	-	108.57	79.28	174.08	54.3798	63.1800
MEXICAN PESO	9.2800	0.00710	5.3760	-	0.0764	8.299	6.059	13.3047	4.1558	4.8288
SWISS FRANC	1.7262	0.00132	-	0.1860	1.4220	1.5433	1.1276	2.4746	0.7730	0.8983
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1306.50	-	756.865	140.787	10.759	1168.200	853.085	1872.80	585.087	679.831
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00077	0.5793	0.1078	8.2359	0.8942	0.6529	1.4337	0.4478	0.5203

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., May 2, 2001

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	MAY 2	APR. 25	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/Overnight cash	5.00	5.00	5.77
BRAZIL/Selic Overnight	16.29	16.30	18.65
BRITAIN/Base Lending	6.00	6.00	6.00
CANADA/Overnite Financing	4.75	4.75	5.50
EURO ZONE/Refinance	4.75	4.75	3.50
HONG KONG/Interbank Overnight	4.13	4.94	6.13
JAPAN/Overnight Call	0.01	0.01	0.02
MEXICO/One-day Loan	14.70*	15.70	12.75
SOUTH KOREA/Discount	5.10	5.00	5.18
UNITED STATES/Federal Funds Rate	4.61**	4.41	6.05

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *Apr. 30, **May 1

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	MAY 2	APR. 25	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.67	5.73	6.55
BRITAIN	5.07	4.98	5.23
CANADA	5.75	5.63	6.21
FRANCE	5.18	5.10	5.45
GERMANY	5.01	4.96	5.34
HONG KONG	6.32	6.27	7.51
ITALY	5.43	5.34	5.63
JAPAN	1.33	1.32	1.75
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	7.94	8.04	9.90
SPAIN	5.32	5.20	5.54
UNITED STATES	5.33	5.19	6.30

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