

International Figures of the Week

COUNTRY FOCUS / GERMANY

The impact of the global slowdown on Germany's economy is beginning to show up in its labor markets.

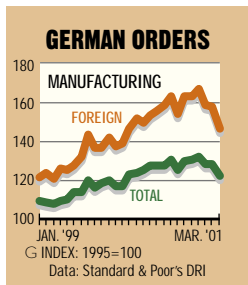
Seasonally adjusted unemployment rose by 6,000 workers in April, the fourth increase in a row, and the jobless rate held at March's 9.3%. Data through February show that job growth has all but stopped. And more recently, several key trade associations, including those from the construction, motor vehicle, and retail industries, have issued warnings of job cutbacks.

The export-sensitive industrial sec-

tor is showing acute weakness. March industrial production plunged a surprisingly large 3.7% from February,

the largest decline in six years. That fall followed news that March manufacturing orders posted their biggest loss in ten years, led by weak foreign orders.

With the malaise spreading to the labor markets, a likely weakening in consumer spending will make it increasingly difficult for economic growth to meet the government's target for 2001, which was recently lowered sharply, to 2% from 2½%.



STOCK INDEXES

	MAY 9	MAY 2	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /All Ordinaires	3286.9	3271.5	9.1%
BRAZIL /Bovespa	14779.0	14897.2	2.4
BRITAIN /FTSE100	5893.7	5904.2	-3.4
CANADA /TSE 300	8070.6	8018.4	-11.3
FRANCE /CAC 40	5492.1	5572.9	-12.3
GERMANY /DAX	6063.9	6213.8	-14.8
HONG KONG /Hang Seng	13585.1	13814.2	-6.3
ITALY /MIB 30	39507.0	40885.0	-13.5
JAPAN /Nikkei 225	14084.9	14421.6	-20.4
MEXICO /IPC 35	6106.4	6117.5	0.4
SOUTH KOREA /Composite	578.8	583.7	-23.8
SPAIN /IBEX 35	9654.3	9633.5	-10.9
UNITED STATES /Dow Jones	10866.5	10876.7	4.8

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.9060	0.00146	1.0953	0.2071	15.6110	1.6878	1.2384	2.7116	0.8450	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.2555	0.00173	1.2963	0.2450	0.0185	1.9953	1.4663	3.2075	-	1.1834
BRITISH POUND	0.7032	0.00054	0.4039	0.0764	5.7570	0.6229	0.4571	-	0.3118	0.3690
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5382	0.00118	0.8835	0.1671	12.5920	1.3626	-	2.1873	0.6820	0.8075
EUROPEAN EURO	1.1289	0.00087	0.6486	0.1227	9.2434	-	0.7340	1.6053	0.5005	0.5925
JAPANESE YEN	122.15	0.09500	70.21	13.2700	-	108.21	79.42	173.70	54.1565	64.0800
MEXICAN PESO	9.2050	0.00707	5.2905	-	0.0754	8.153	5.984	13.0904	4.0811	4.8295
SWISS FRANC	1.7399	0.00134	-	0.1890	1.4242	1.5412	1.1309	2.4741	0.7714	0.9128
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1302.50	-	748.606	141.499	10.663	1153.400	846.769	1852.09	577.477	683.368
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00077	0.5748	0.1086	8.1863	0.8858	0.6501	1.4220	0.4434	0.5246

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., May 9, 2001

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	MAY 9	MAY 2	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /Overnight cash	4.97*	5.00	6.00
BRAZIL /Selic Overnight	16.28	16.29	18.48
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	3.75
HONG KONG /Interbank Overnight	4.13	4.13	6.69
JAPAN /Overnight Call	0.01	0.01	0.02
MEXICO /One-day Loan	12.40*	14.70	13.25
SOUTH KOREA /Discount	5.10	5.10	5.19
UNITED STATES /Federal Funds Rate	4.41*	4.61	5.92

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *May 8

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	MAY 9	MAY 2	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.65	5.67	6.54
BRITAIN	4.95	5.07	5.30
CANADA	5.74	5.75	6.33
FRANCE	5.08	5.18	5.50
GERMANY	4.94	5.01	5.35
HONG KONG	6.19	6.32	7.74
ITALY	5.36	5.43	5.67
JAPAN	1.27	1.33	1.71
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	7.72	7.94	8.89
SPAIN	5.21	5.32	5.63
UNITED STATES	5.20	5.33	6.52

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