

# International Figures of the Week

## COUNTRY FOCUS / EURO ZONE

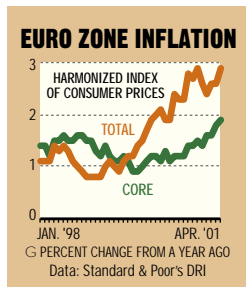
Inflation across the 12-nation euro zone picked up in April. However, the European Central Bank, which cut interest rates on May 10, is betting that the rise is temporary and that inflation will start trending downward in the second half.

The area's harmonized index of consumer prices increased 0.5% from March and 2.9% from a year ago. That pace was up from 2.6% in March and 1.9% a year ago. Inflation has been running above the ECB's 2% ceiling for nearly a year. Sharp monthly increases in energy

and food have fueled the rise, but those effects are expected to wane in coming months.

However, core inflation, which excludes energy, food, alcohol, and tobacco, is also rising. It was up 0.3% in April, and the yearly rate is up to 1.9%, from 1.3% a year ago.

Since the ECB is cutting rates based on prospective declines in inflation, further rate cuts may well depend on how fast those declines emerge. Economists believe that better inflation news might not be forthcoming until July.



## STOCK INDEXES

	MAY 16	MAY 9	% CHG. YEAR AGO
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> /All Ordinaires	3316.8	3286.9	9.1%
<b>BRAZIL</b> /Bovespa	14714.3	14779.0	-1.1
<b>BRITAIN</b> /FTSE100	5884.0	5893.7	-5.0
<b>CANADA</b> /TSE 300	8146.0	8070.6	-14.7
<b>FRANCE</b> /CAC 40	5522.7	5492.1	-14.4
<b>GERMANY</b> /DAX	6148.4	6063.9	-14.7
<b>HONG KONG</b> /Hang Seng	13336.0	13585.1	-10.1
<b>ITALY</b> /MIB 30	39820.0	39507.0	-13.9
<b>JAPAN</b> /Nikkei 225	13694.3	14084.9	-21.3
<b>MEXICO</b> /IPC 35	6034.0	6106.4	-2.5
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b> /Composite	572.4	578.8	-21.3
<b>SPAIN</b> /IBEX 35	9588.1	9654.3	-12.1
<b>UNITED STATES</b> /Dow Jones	11216.1	10866.5	4.1

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

## CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
<b>AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR</b>	1.9086	0.00146	1.1014	0.2086	15.4670	1.6865	1.2414	2.7330	0.8228	-
<b>BRAZILIAN REAL</b>	2.3195	0.00177	1.3376	0.2535	0.0188	2.0503	1.5083	3.3174	-	1.2153
<b>BRITISH POUND</b>	0.6992	0.00053	0.4030	0.0764	5.6592	0.6179	0.4545	-	0.3014	0.3663
<b>CANADIAN DOLLAR</b>	1.5378	0.00117	0.8864	0.1681	12.4489	1.3587	-	2.1992	0.6630	0.8055
<b>EUROPEAN EURO</b>	1.1317	0.00086	0.6526	0.1237	9.1588	-	0.7359	1.6186	0.4879	0.5929
<b>JAPANESE YEN</b>	123.57	0.09500	71.25	13.5049	-	109.18	80.35	176.72	53.2744	64.7400
<b>MEXICAN PESO</b>	9.1500	0.00699	5.2765	-	0.0740	8.085	5.950	13.0863	3.9448	4.7941
<b>SWISS FRANC</b>	1.7341	0.00132	-	0.1895	1.4031	1.5322	1.1278	2.4801	0.7476	0.9086
<b>SOUTH KOREAN WON</b>	1309.00	-	754.858	143.060	10.593	1156.600	851.216	1872.13	564.346	685.843
<b>U.S. DOLLAR</b>	-	0.00076	0.5767	0.1093	8.0929	0.8836	0.6503	1.4302	0.4311	0.5239

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., May 16, 2001

## CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	MAY 16	MAY 9	YEAR AGO
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> /Overnight cash	4.98*	4.97	6.00
<b>BRAZIL</b> /Selic Overnight	16.30	16.28	18.51
<b>BRITAIN</b> /Base Lending	5.25	6.00	6.00
<b>CANADA</b> /Overnite Financing	4.75	4.75	6.00
<b>EURO ZONE</b> /Refinance	4.50	4.75	3.75
<b>HONG KONG</b> /Interbank Overnight	5.56	4.13	6.63
<b>JAPAN</b> /Overnight Call	0.01	0.01	0.02
<b>MEXICO</b> /One-day Loan	14.80*	12.40	13.60
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b> /Discount	5.10	5.10	5.19
<b>UNITED STATES</b> /Federal Funds Rate	4.22*	4.41	6.13

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*May 15

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

	MAY 16	MAY 9	YEAR AGO
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	6.03	5.65	6.46
<b>BRITAIN</b>	5.07	4.95	5.31
<b>CANADA</b>	5.97	5.74	6.27
<b>FRANCE</b>	5.25	5.08	5.49
<b>GERMANY</b>	5.09	4.94	5.30
<b>HONG KONG</b>	6.54	6.19	7.76
<b>ITALY</b>	5.47	5.36	5.71
<b>JAPAN</b>	1.24	1.27	1.76
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b> (3-Year)	7.84	7.72	8.95
<b>SPAIN</b>	5.32	5.21	5.64
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	5.43	5.20	6.42

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