

International Figures of the Week

COUNTRY FOCUS / AUSTRALIA

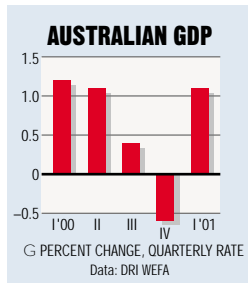
With yearend elections expected, Australia's conservative government heaved a sigh of relief after a surprisingly strong 1.1% bounce in first-quarter real gross domestic product. That unannualized gain more than made up for the 0.6% drop in fourth-quarter GDP, which had raised recession fears and fueled criticism of the government's handling of the economy.

The new data show that the fourth-quarter weakness was a temporary result of the government's new goods-and-services tax, implemented last

July. Most important, the GST caused a surge of housing activity before the tax and a plunge after it took effect. That shift accounted for all of the drop in fourth-quarter GDP. First-quarter consumer spending was exceptionally strong.

But economic risks remain. Exports are vulnerable to overseas weakness, and joblessness is rising amid soft labor markets.

That's why the Reserve Bank of Australia is expected to reduce interest rates further this summer, following aggressive cuts earlier this year.



STOCK INDEXES

	JUNE 6	MAY 30	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /All Ordinaires	3355.2	3339.9	9.3%
BRAZIL /Bovespa	15328.8	14489.4	-5.8
BRITAIN /FTSE100	5901.5	5796.9	-9.3
CANADA /TSE 300	8194.4	8101.4	-14.3
FRANCE /CAC 40	5496.5	5444.3	-15.4
GERMANY /DAX	6192.4	6041.2	-15.1
HONG KONG /Hang Seng	13576.0	13420.1	-14.6
ITALY /MIB 30	38153.0	38822.0	-18.9
JAPAN /Nikkei 225	13174.8	13493.4	-23.2
MEXICO /IPC 35	6791.0	6586.9	8.9
SOUTH KOREA /Composite	597.7	628.4	-27.3
SPAIN /IBEX 35	9530.7	9439.9	-10.8
UNITED STATES /Dow Jones	11070.2	10872.6	2.3

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.9374	0.00151	1.0812	0.2123	16.0950	1.6450	1.2717	2.6975	0.8108	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.3895	0.00186	1.3342	0.2619	0.0199	2.0148	1.5683	3.3294	-	1.2334
BRITISH POUND	0.7177	0.00056	0.4008	0.0787	5.9668	0.6094	0.4708	-	0.3004	0.3705
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5236	0.00119	0.8512	0.1670	12.6719	1.2937	-	2.1227	0.6376	0.7894
EUROPEAN EURO	1.1777	0.00092	0.6578	0.1292	9.7919	-	0.7731	1.6409	0.4929	0.6078
JAPANESE YEN	120.29	0.09500	67.17	13.1825	-	102.13	78.94	167.58	50.3411	62.0800
MEXICAN PESO	9.1250	0.00710	5.0949	-	0.0759	7.741	5.989	12.7010	3.8188	4.7099
SWISS FRANC	1.7910	0.00139	-	0.1963	1.4891	1.5206	1.1757	2.4950	0.7495	0.9244
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1285.50	-	717.755	140.877	10.687	1091.500	843.725	1790.89	537.979	663.518
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00078	0.5583	0.1096	8.3136	0.8491	0.6564	1.3932	0.4185	0.5161

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., June 6, 2001

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	JUNE 6	MAY 30	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /Overnight cash	4.99*	5.00	6.00
BRAZIL /Selic Overnight	16.76	16.80	18.35
BRITAIN /Base Lending	5.25	5.25	6.00
CANADA /Overnite Financing	4.50	4.75	6.00
EURO ZONE /Refinance	4.50	4.50	3.50
HONG KONG /Interbank Overnight	3.88	3.69	7.75
JAPAN /Overnight Call	0.01	0.01	0.02
MEXICO /One-day Loan	8.75*	9.25	15.40
SOUTH KOREA /Discount	5.10*	5.10	5.19
UNITED STATES /Federal Funds Rate	3.93*	4.09	6.47

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *June 5

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	JUNE 6	MAY 30	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.96	6.01	6.13
BRITAIN	5.05	5.17	5.11
CANADA	5.72	5.95	5.95
FRANCE	5.13	5.28	5.27
GERMANY	5.00	5.12	5.13
HONG KONG	6.15	6.51	7.43
ITALY	5.40	5.52	5.47
JAPAN	1.24	1.28	1.76
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	7.35*	7.40	9.75
SPAIN	5.24	5.35	5.39
UNITED STATES	5.33	5.49	6.12

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *June 5