

International Figures of the Week

COUNTRY FOCUS / SOUTH KOREA

The sharp slowdown in South Korea's economy continued in the second quarter, and further slowing is likely in the third quarter.

Real gross domestic product last quarter grew 2.7% from a year ago, the weakest showing since the Asian crisis. The economy is feeling the global downturn in technology demand. Business investment plunged 10.8% from a year ago, reflecting the steep slowdown in exports, which posted yearly growth of only 1.2%, compared with their 21.4% clip this time last year.

Consumer spending, up 2.9% over the year, was a source of support. But consumer confidence fell in July, as economic prospects continued to fade. And global chip markets will show no sign of turning around until the U.S. economy gains firmer footing.

The economy is getting support from three cuts in interest rates this year and from public-works spending, and bank lending is growing strongly. But that will not prevent growth from falling to 3% or less this year, down from 8.8% in 2000.



STOCK INDEXES

	AUG. 22	AUG. 15	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/All Ordinaries	3255.1	3307.8	-2.0%
BRAZIL/Bovespa	12952.2	13658.6	-25.8
BRITAIN/FTSE100	5408.7	5461.6	-17.6
CANADA/TSE 300	7538.6	7532.7	-32.1
FRANCE/CAC 40	4812.1	4934.0	-26.0
GERMANY/DAX	5220.2	5455.4	-27.8
HONG KONG/Hang Seng	11188.6	12141.6	-35.8
ITALY/MIB 30	35317.0	36328.0	-25.2
JAPAN/Nikkei 225	11396.4	11755.4	-30.7
MEXICO/IPC 35	6333.1	6542.2	-0.5
SOUTH KOREA/Composite	574.9	577.2	-20.1
SPAIN/IBEX 35	8305.6	8450.0	-23.1
UNITED STATES/Dow Jones	10276.9	10346.0	-7.8

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.8742	0.00147	1.1249	0.2056	15.5390	1.7138	1.2161	2.7112	0.7414	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.5280	0.00198	1.5189	0.2773	0.0210	2.3282	1.6393	3.6622	-	1.3488
BRITISH POUND	0.6903	0.00054	0.4149	0.0758	5.7315	0.6313	0.4475	-	0.2731	0.3683
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5421	0.00121	0.9272	0.1692	12.8069	1.4101	-	2.2337	0.6100	0.8223
EUROPEAN EURO	1.0936	0.00086	0.6574	0.1200	9.0814	-	0.7091	1.5842	0.4326	0.5833
JAPANESE YEN	120.43	0.09500	72.35	13.2123	-	110.11	78.10	174.44	47.6384	64.2600
MEXIGAN PESO	9.1150	0.00714	5.4764	-	0.0757	8.334	5.911	13.1999	3.6056	4.8634
SWISS FRANC	1.6644	0.00130	-	0.1826	1.3821	1.5220	1.0793	2.4110	0.6584	0.8880
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1277.50	-	767.544	140.154	10.608	1168.100	828.416	1850.52	505.340	681.624
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00078	0.6008	0.1097	8.3039	0.9144	0.6485	1.4486	0.3956	0.5336

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Aug. 22, 2001

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	AUG. 22	AUG. 15	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/Overnight cash	4.98	5.00	6.27
BRAZIL/Selic Overnight	19.04	18.96	16.55
BRITAIN/Base Lending	5.00	5.00	6.00
CANADA/Overnite Financing	4.25	4.25	6.00
EURO ZONE/Refinance	4.50	4.50	4.25
HONG KONG/Interbank Overnight	3.31	3.38	7.00
JAPAN/Overnight Call	0.01	0.01	0.25
MEXICO/One-day Loan	7.30*	6.30	14.50
SOUTH KOREA/Discount	4.45	4.62	5.14
UNITED STATES/Federal Funds Rate	3.53*	3.76	6.44

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *Aug. 21

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	AUG. 22	AUG. 15	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.68	5.79	5.76
BRITAIN	4.85	4.87	5.31
CANADA	5.49	5.53	5.78
FRANCE	4.90	4.93	5.41
GERMANY	4.79	4.81	5.24
HONG KONG	5.89	5.96	7.27
ITALY	5.16	5.19	5.60
JAPAN	1.40	1.30	1.81
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	6.33	6.49	9.01
SPAIN	5.06*	5.14	5.55
UNITED STATES	4.85	4.96	5.77

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *Aug. 17