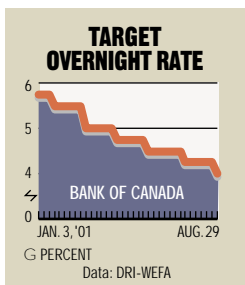


International Figures of the Week

COUNTRY FOCUS / CANADA

The Bank of Canada's expected rate cut on Aug. 28 was accompanied by an unexpected shift in the Bank's economic outlook.

The BOC cut its overnight rate for the sixth time this year, this time by a quarter point, to 4%, for a total reduction of 1½ points. However, in a sudden change of tone from its upbeat economic assessment in its Aug. 1 policy report, the Bank admitted that growth will be slower than projected and that the needed inventory adjustment is not as far advanced as expected.



The Bank now says that second-half growth will be below the 3% pace it believes to be consistent with stable inflation, and that pressures on production capacity and inflation will remain tame well into 2002.

The BOC is coming around to the widely held market view that further rate cuts will be necessary. Weaker-than-expected U.S. demand was only partly responsible for the shift. The Bank is increasingly concerned about demand outside of North America, as well as demand within Canada itself.

STOCK INDEXES

	AUG. 29	AUG. 22	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /All Ordinaries	3288.4	3255.1	-0.8%
BRAZIL /Bovespa	13062.9	12952.2	-25.0
BRITAIN /FTSE100	5417.6	5408.7	-18.1
CANADA /TSE 300	7494.4	7538.6	-32.9
FRANCE /CAC 40	4834.9	4812.1	-27.1
GERMANY /DAX	5305.0	5220.2	-26.2
HONG KONG /Hang Seng	11242.4	11188.6	-34.2
ITALY /MIB 30	35591.0	35317.0	-24.9
JAPAN /Nikkei 225	10979.8	11396.4	-35.0
MEXICO /IPC 35	6324.9	6333.1	-3.8
SOUTH KOREA /Composite	565.6	574.9	-21.3
SPAIN /IBEX 35	8425.3	8305.6	-22.5
UNITED STATES /Dow Jones	10090.9	10276.9	-9.1

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	1.8902	0.00148	1.1320	0.2067	15.7100	1.7183	1.2231	2.7410	0.7420	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.5475	0.00199	1.5259	0.2786	0.0212	2.3198	1.6481	3.6963	-	1.3477
BRITISH POUND	0.6892	0.00054	0.4130	0.0753	5.7316	0.6267	0.4457	-	0.2705	0.3647
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5457	0.00121	0.9265	0.1690	12.8578	1.4053	-	2.2424	0.6068	0.8176
EUROPEAN EURO	1.0998	0.00086	0.6588	0.1201	9.1512	-	0.7115	1.5956	0.4317	0.5818
JAPANESE YEN	120.21	0.09500	72.00	13.1449	-	109.29	77.76	174.38	47.1874	63.6000
MEXICAN PESO	9.1450	0.00715	5.4777	-	0.0761	8.315	5.916	13.2680	3.5898	4.8381
SWISS FRANC	1.6695	0.00130	-	0.1826	1.3889	1.5180	1.0803	2.4219	0.6553	0.8832
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1279.50	-	766.397	139.913	10.644	1163.100	827.780	1856.24	502.257	676.912
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00078	0.5991	0.1094	8.3195	0.9093	0.6470	1.4508	0.3925	0.5290

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Aug. 29, 2001

CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	AUG. 29	AUG. 22	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA /Overnight cash	4.97	4.98	6.24
BRAZIL /Selic Overnight	19.01*	19.04	16.47
BRITAIN /Base Lending	5.00	5.00	6.00
CANADA /Overnite Financing	4.00	4.25	6.00
EURO ZONE /Refinance	4.50	4.50	4.25
HONG KONG /Interbank Overnight	3.31	3.31	5.75
JAPAN /Overnight Call	0.01	0.01	0.25
MEXICO /One-day Loan	9.25*	7.30	15.25
SOUTH KOREA /Discount	4.59	4.45	5.19
UNITED STATES /Federal Funds Rate	3.50*	3.53	6.51

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, *Aug. 28

GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS (BENCHMARK 10-YEAR BOND)

	AUG. 29	AUG. 22	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.53	5.68	6.32
BRITAIN	4.81	4.85	5.32
CANADA	5.42	5.49	5.84
FRANCE	4.92	4.90	5.48
GERMANY	4.83	4.79	5.26
HONG KONG	5.83	5.89	7.26
ITALY	5.16	5.16	5.67
JAPAN	1.39	1.40	1.87
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	6.45	6.33	8.92
SPAIN	5.09	5.06	5.61
UNITED STATES	4.83	4.85	5.81

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