

# International Figures of the Week

## COUNTRY FOCUS / FRANCE

Consumer spending, which until now has helped France to weather the U.S.-led global slowdown, is now at risk. That means the economy could be headed for a recession.

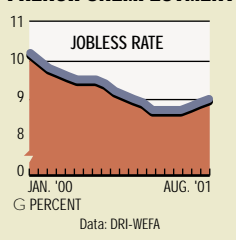
Consumer confidence in September fell to the lowest level since May, 1998, on the heels of a deteriorating labor market and new worries over economic damage following the terrorist attacks on the U.S. The August jobless rate hit an eight-month high of 9%.

Perceptions of job prospects fell sharply in the latest confidence survey,

in which 44% of the responses came in before the September 11 attacks. Confidence probably will drop further in October, meaning that the government's six billion euros (\$5.5 billion) in tax cuts may not be sufficient to prevent a consumer retrenchment.

The Socialist government, facing elections next year, announced on Oct. 2 that it would create 50,000 state-subsidized jobs, but that effort also seems unlikely to shore up confidence, and it will further bloat an already growing budget deficit.

### FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT



## STOCK INDEXES

	OCT. 3	SEPT. 26	% CHG. YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/All Ordinaries	3061.5	2932.1	-6.2%
BRAZIL/Bovespa	10233.3	10005.9	-35.5
BRITAIN/FTSE100	4881.8	4696.1	-22.9
CANADA/TSE 300	6903.8	6654.8	-34.4
FRANCE/CAC 40	4024.3	3975.5	-36.1
GERMANY/DAX	4436.7	4095.3	-35.0
HONG KONG/Hang Seng	9897.1	9371.8	-37.7
ITALY/MIB 30	29465.0	27416.0	-35.8
JAPAN/Nikkei 225	9924.2	9641.7	-38.5
MEXICO/IPC 35	5407.5	5324.8	-14.8
SOUTH KOREA/Composite	479.7	472.9	-19.8
SPAIN/IBEX 35	7245.0	7050.9	-35.1
UNITED STATES/Dow Jones	9123.8	8567.4	-15.4

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc.

## CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	USDOLLAR	SKWON	SFRANC	MPESO	YEN	EURO	CDOL	POUND	REAL	ADOL
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	2.0171	0.00154	1.2438	0.2118	16.7350	1.8447	1.2858	2.9794	0.7376	-
BRAZILIAN REAL	2.7345	0.00208	1.6855	0.2871	0.0227	2.5121	1.7431	4.0391	-	1.3557
BRITISH POUND	0.6770	0.00052	0.4175	0.0711	5.6170	0.6192	0.4317	-	0.2476	0.3356
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.5688	0.00119	0.9669	0.1647	13.0100	1.4347	-	2.3172	0.5737	0.7778
EUROPEAN EURO	1.0935	0.00083	0.6739	0.1148	9.0650	-	0.6970	1.6151	0.3999	0.5421
JAPANESE YEN	120.63	0.09400	74.35	12.6646	-	110.32	76.90	178.18	44.1141	59.7900
MEXICAN PESO	9.5250	0.00725	5.8709	-	0.0790	8.711	6.072	14.0694	3.4833	4.7221
SWISS FRANC	1.6224	0.00124	-	0.1703	1.3450	1.4837	1.0342	2.3964	0.5933	0.8043
SOUTH KOREAN WON	1313.50	-	809.603	137.900	10.889	1201.300	837.264	1940.17	480.344	651.182
U.S. DOLLAR	-	0.00076	0.6163	0.1050	8.2902	0.9146	0.6374	1.4771	0.3657	0.4958

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Quotes as of 4 p.m., Oct. 3, 2001

## CENTRAL BANK POLICY RATES

	OCT. 3	SEPT. 26	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA/Overnight cash	4.49	4.71	6.25
BRAZIL/Selic Overnight	19.11*	19.07	16.60
BRITAIN/Base Lending	4.75	4.75	6.00
CANADA/Overnite Financing	3.50	3.50	6.00
EURO ZONE/Refinance	3.75	3.75	4.50
HONG KONG/Interbank Overnight	2.13	2.38	6.00
JAPAN/Overnight Call	0.00	0.00	0.24
MEXICO/One-day Loan	8.89*	8.11	15.60
SOUTH KOREA/Discount	NA	NA	5.19
UNITED STATES/Federal Funds Rate	2.35*	3.11	6.46

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*Oct. 2

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

	OCT. 3	SEPT. 26	YEAR AGO
AUSTRALIA	5.46	5.56	6.18
BRITAIN	4.77	4.88	5.20
CANADA	5.26	5.34	5.78
FRANCE	4.76	4.91	5.39
GERMANY	4.66	4.80	5.24
HONG KONG	5.37*	5.46	7.20
ITALY	4.99	5.16	5.60
JAPAN	1.38	1.42	1.84
SOUTH KOREA (3-Year)	NA	NA	8.87
SPAIN	4.91	5.07	5.53
UNITED STATES	4.49	4.65	5.85

Data: Bridge Information Systems, Inc., Standard & Poor's DRI, \*Oct. 2