



AGENCE FRANCE TRÉSOR

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TRÉSOR
is tasked with
handling
government debt
and cash
management
under the most
secure
conditions in the
best interest of the
taxpayer.

MONTHLY BULLETIN - N°177 - February 2005

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Available in French and English

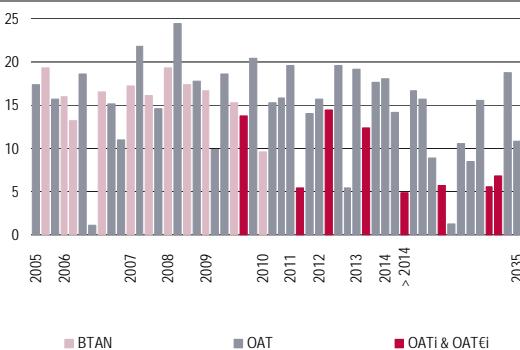
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Editor: Agence France Trésor



DEBT GENERAL DATA

► French government long- and medium-term negotiable debt on January 31, 2005

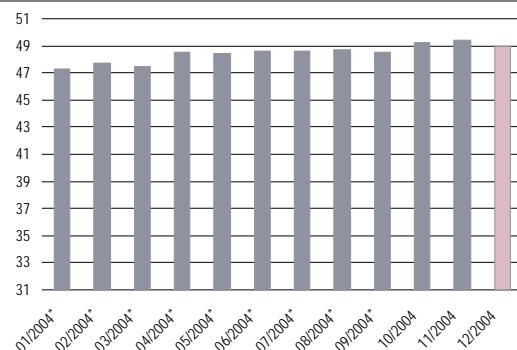
nominal value of each line, €bn



Source: Agence France Trésor

► Non-resident holdings of French government negotiable debt securities

as a % of negotiable debt outstanding



Source: balance of payments

Note: following the revised figures of the French securities held by non-residents at the end of 2003, the Banque de France has readjusted the outstanding amount related to the negotiable Government debt securities held by non-residents in 2002 and has reevaluated the stock for 2003.

(*) figures quarterly revised

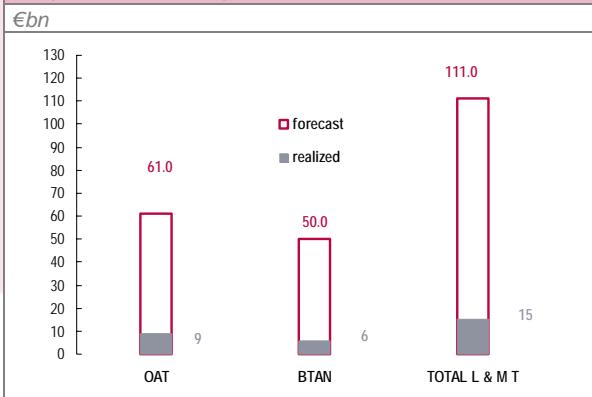
PRIMARY MARKET

► Auction indicative calendar

| | | BTF | | | | BTAN / index linked OAT | OAT |
|---------------|-----------------|-----|----|----|---------|-------------------------|-----|
| February 2005 | auction date | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | 3 |
| | settlement date | 10 | 17 | 24 | 3 March | 22 | 8 |
| March 2005 | auction date | 7 | 14 | 21 | 29 | 17 | 3 |
| | settlement date | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | 22 | 8 |

Source: Agence France Trésor

► Long- and medium-term financing over the year on January 31, 2005



Source: Agence France Trésor

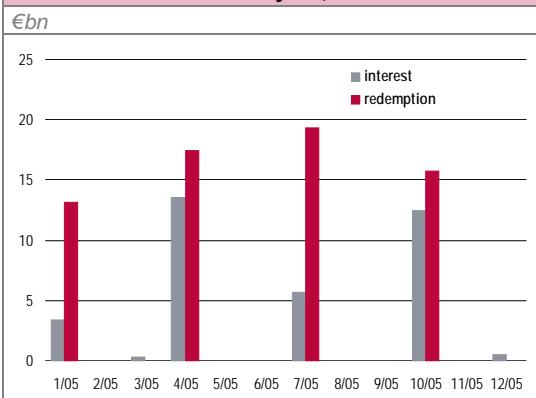
► OATs and BTANs issues and cumulative total on January 31, 2005



* nominal value

Source: Agence France Trésor

► OATs and BTANs: indicative repayment schedule on January 31, 2005



Source: Agence France Trésor

► OAT and BTAN auctions – January 2005

| €m | OAT 10 years 10/25/2014 4.00% | OAT > 10 years 4/25/2035 4.75% | BTAN 2 years 1/12/2007 3.75% | BTAN 5 years 1/12/2010 3.00% | OATEi 10 years 7/25/2015 1.60% | OATEi 30 years 7/25/2029 3.40% |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Auction date | 1/6/2005 | 1/6/2005 | 1/20/2005 | 1/20/2005 | 1/20/2005 | 1/20/2005 |
| Settlement date | 1/11/2005 | 1/11/2005 | 1/25/2005 | 1/25/2005 | 1/25/2005 | 1/25/2005 |
| Amount announced | <- 5,300-5,800 --> | | <- 5,000-5,500 --> | | <- 1,000-1,500 --> | |
| Bid amount | 7,065 | 5,020 | 6,560 | 7,195 | 2,337 | 915 |
| Amount served | 3,765 | 2,025 | 1,510 | 3,680 | 1,089 | 406 |
| of which: NCTs before auction | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| NCTs after auction | 272 | 604 | 0 | 750 | 208 | 28 |
| Total issued amount | 4,037 | 2,629 | 1,510 | 4,430 | 1,297 | 434 |
| Bid-to-cover ratio | 1.87 | 2.47 | 4.34 | 1.95 | 2.14 | 2.25 |
| Weighted average price | 102.70% | 108.03% | 102.58% | 100.22% | 101.92% | 132.96% |
| Yield to maturity | 3.67% | 4.27% | 2.39% | 2.95% | 1.40% | 1.74% |
| Indexation coefficient | - | - | - | - | 1.00601 | 1.09321 |

Source: Agence France Trésor

► BTF auctions - January 2005

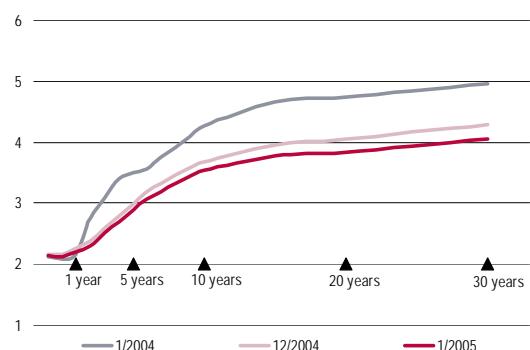
| €m | BTF 1 month | BTF 3 month | BTF 6 month | BTF 1 year |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Auction date | | 1/3/2005 | 1/3/2005 | |
| Settlement date | | 1/6/2005 | 1/6/2005 | |
| Maturity | | 4/7/2005 | 7/7/2005 | |
| Total issued amount | 2,360 | 2,190 | | |
| Weighted average rate | 2.032% | 2.103% | | |
| Auction date | 1/10/2005 | 1/10/2005 | | |
| Settlement date | 1/13/2005 | 1/13/2005 | | |
| Maturity | 4/7/2005 | 7/7/2005 | | |
| Total issued amount | 2,426 | 1,907 | | |
| Weighted average rate | 2.028% | 2.078% | | |
| Auction date | 1/17/2005 | | 1/17/2005 | |
| Settlement date | 1/20/2005 | | 1/20/2005 | |
| Maturity | 4/21/2005 | | 1/19/2006 | |
| Total issued amount | 2,009 | | 2,009 | |
| Weighted average rate | 2.025% | | 2.178% | |
| Auction date | 1/24/2005 | | 1/24/2005 | |
| Settlement date | 1/27/2005 | | 1/27/2005 | |
| Maturity | 4/21/2005 | | 1/19/2006 | |
| Total issued amount | 2,036 | | 2,007 | |
| Weighted average rate | 2.021% | | 2.166% | |
| Auction date | 1/31/2005 | 1/31/2005 | | |
| Settlement date | 2/3/2005 | 2/3/2005 | | |
| Maturity | 5/4/2005 | 8/4/2005 | | |
| Total issued amount | 2,034 | 2,111 | | |
| Weighted average rate | 2.021% | 2.073% | | |

Source: Agence France Trésor

SECONDARY MARKET

► French government yield curve

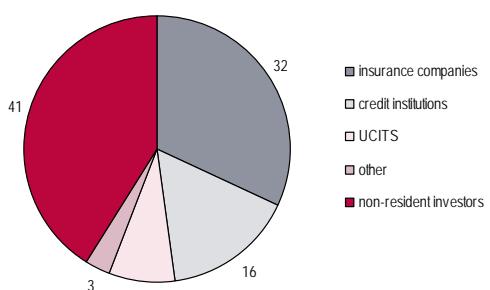
quote at end of the month, in %



Source: Bloomberg

► OAT ownership by type of holder second quarter 2004

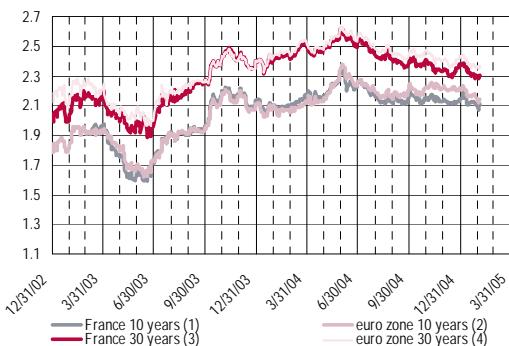
structure in %



Source: Banque de France

► Breakeven inflation

daily quotes in %



Source: Bloomberg

(1) difference between the yield of the OAT 4% April 2013 and the yield of the OATi 2.5% July 2013

(2) difference between the yield of the OAT 5% April 2012 and the yield of the OATi 3% July 2012

(3) difference between the yield of the OAT 5.5% April 2029 and the yield of the OATi 3.4% July 2029

(4) difference between the yield of the OAT 5.75% October 2032 and the yield of the OATi 3.15% July 2032

► Negotiable government debt and swaps

€bn

| | end 2000 | end 2001 | end 2002 | end 2003 | November 2004 | December 2004 | January 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Negotiable government debt | | | | | | | |
| outstanding | 616 | 653 | 717 | 788 | 841 | 833 | 833 |
| OAT | 419 | 443 | 478 | 512 | 552 | 552 | 560 |
| BTAN | 154 | 158 | 151 | 167 | 184 | 184 | 177 |
| BTF | 43 | 52 | 88 | 109 | 105 | 97 | 96 |
| Swaps outstanding | /// | 37 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 |
| Average maturity of the negotiable debt | | | | | | | |
| before swaps | 6 years | 6 years | 5 years | 5 years | 6 years | 6 years | 6 years |
| | 64 days | 47 days | 343 days | 297 days | 85 days | 79 days | 126 days |
| after swaps | /// | 5 years | 5 years | 5 years | 6 years | 6 years | 6 years |
| | /// | 358 days | 266 days | 235 days | 38 days | 33 days | 80 days |

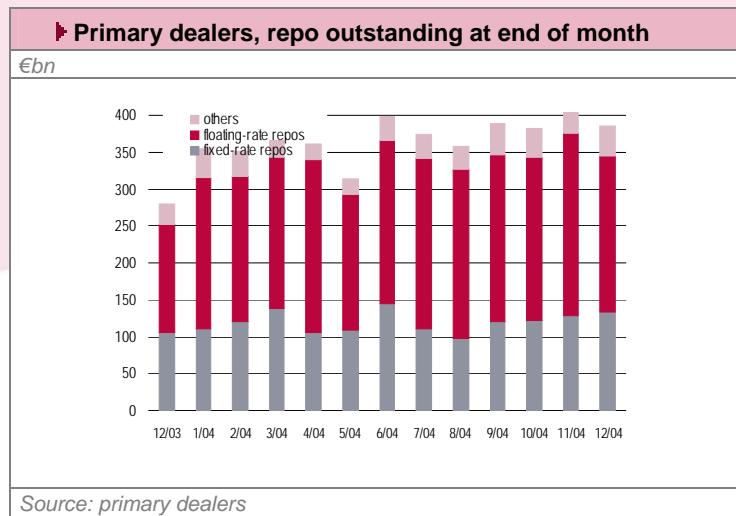
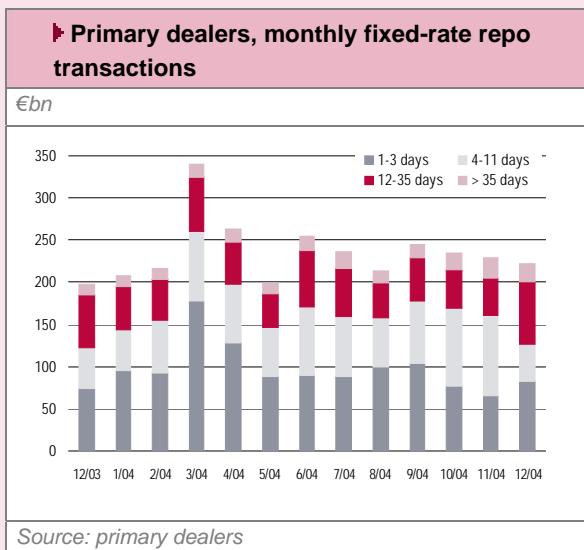
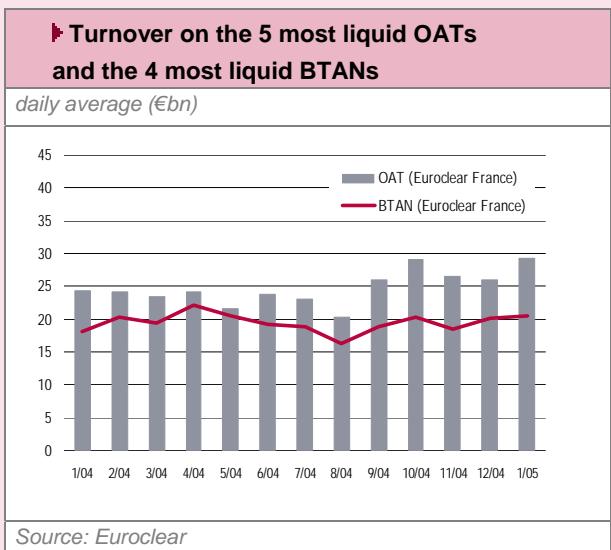
Source: Agence France Trésor



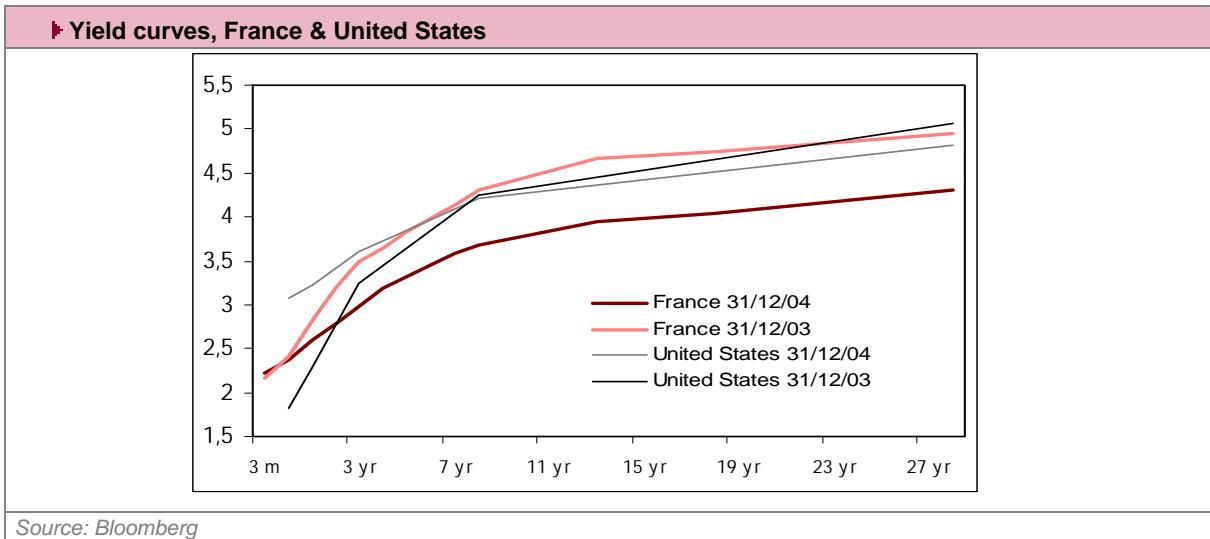
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Focus



When central banks lose control of the long end of the curve and exchange rates

The monetary conditions of a country or an economic zone are defined by using real trade-weighted exchange rates, real short-term interest rates and real long-term interest rates.

A central bank that seeks to “cool down” the economy or simply move towards a more neutral bias in monetary policy must therefore take into account the impact of its decisions on the bond market and the foreign exchange market. However, apparently, some central banks have lost control of their currency and their long-term interest rates.

Let us take the example of the Fed. It began to tighten its monetary policy in last June and clearly announced its intention to press ahead with this tightening. The target for the Fed Funds rate has been raised by 150 bp in 7 months. Over the same period, the yield on the 10-year T-note has fallen by 60 bp. This is an unprecedented situation, which contrasts sharply with what occurred, for example, in 1994 when the target for the Fed Funds was raised by 300 bp while the yield on T-notes rose 200 bp. Long-date maturities are not the only ones that are no longer influenced by monetary policy: the yield on the 5-year T-note is also lower than in last June. This atypical situation can be explained in the following manner: the Fed is maintaining control of the short end of the US curve. But Asian central banks now control the other maturities: they finance the US external deficit and, by doing so, over-finance the budget deficit. As a consequence of this situation: the US curve will further flatten, to a far greater extent than suggested by conventional curve models.

Nor does the United States control the dollar any more. The greenback, if it were to adjust freely to American fundamentals, would plummet. But Asian central banks are doing everything possible to counteract this “natural” trend, which would worsen deflation in Japan and likely dampen growth in other countries.

What about the euro zone? With respect to interest rates, the situation is quite similar to that witnessed in the United States, apart from two exceptions: (1) short-term interest rates are trending, for the time being, in a diverging manner in the United States and Europe; (2) long-date maturities increasingly seem to be influenced by the prospect of regulatory changes with respect to pension funds (the FTK will be effective in January 2006 in the Netherlands). These changes, which *inter alia* are aimed at improving the matching of these funds’ liabilities and assets, should lead the latter to increase the duration of their bond portfolio.

Otherwise, it is certain that the European bond market is benefiting, like its US counterpart, from the robust “global” monetary base growth. Against this backdrop, and if we rule out the hypothesis of a significant rebound in the stock market, European long-term interest rates could quite possibly end the year at the level at which they started it or even at a lower one. The ECB will exert control only on the slope of the curve. In the occurrence, if the international environment remains unchanged, the curve will be able to steepen only if monetary policy is eased. Should the monetary status quo be maintained durably, further flattening in the slope is likely.

The ECB virtually exerts no control whatever on the euro, since it is reluctant to intervene in the foreign exchange market. The adjustment in the foreign-exchange market to the slide in the dollar is occurring, after all, via an upward over-adjustment in currencies of countries that do not hamper the free play of flexible exchange rates. The euro belongs to this group of currencies.

Market analysis
René Defossez
Ixis-CIB

NB: this Agence France Trésor forum offers economists an opportunity to express their personal opinion. Thus, the above article strictly reflects the author's view, and should not be construed as expressing the viewpoints of Agence France Trésor or the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry.

THE FRENCH ECONOMY

► Macro-economic forecast

Real growth rate as a %

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|------|------|------|
| PIB français | 0,5 | 2,5 | 2,5 |
| PIB zone euro | 0,5 | 1,9 | 2,2 |
| Consommation des ménages | 1,4 | 2,4 | 2,4 |
| Investissement des entreprises | -1,9 | 4,3 | 4,7 |
| Exportations | -2,5 | 4,5 | 6,3 |
| Importations | -0,1 | 7,1 | 6,7 |
| Prix à la consommation (glissement annuel) | 2,1 | 2,2 | 1,8 |

Source: 2005 Budget bill

► Recent economic indicators

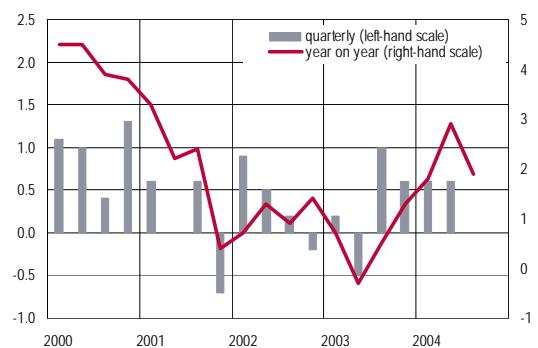
| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Industrial output*, year-on-year | 2.9% | 11/2004 |
| Household consumption*, year-on-year | 6.6% | 12/2004 |
| Unemployment rate (ILO) | 9.9% | 12/2004 |
| Consumer prices, year-on-year | | |
| all items | 2.1% | 12/2004 |
| all items excluding tobacco | 1.9% | 12/2004 |
| Trade balance, fob-fob, sa | -1.1 EUR bn | 11/2004 |
| " | -1.8 EUR bn | 10/2004 |
| Current account balance, sa | -0.3 EUR bn | 11/2004 |
| " | -1.2 EUR bn | 10/2004 |
| 10-year interest rate (TEC10) | 3.56% | 01/31/2005 |
| 3-month interest rate (Euribor) | 2.142% | 01/31/2005 |
| EUR / USD | 1.3035 | 01/31/2005 |
| EUR / JPY | 134.96 | 01/31/2005 |

*manufactured goods –

Source: Insee ; Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry ; Banque de France

► Gross domestic product at 1995 prices

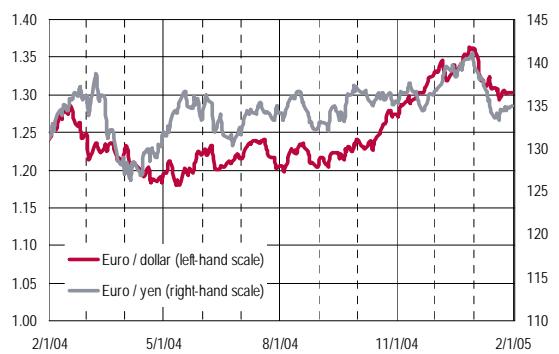
Variation in %



Source: Insee, quarterly national accounts

► Euro exchange rate

Daily quotes



Source: European Central Bank

► Government budget monthly position

€bn

end-of-December level

2002 2003 2004

| General budget balance | -49.99 | -56.70 | -45.41 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| revenue | 227.47 | 221.56 | 242.99 |
| expenditure | 277.46 | 278.26 | 288.40 |
| Balance of special Treasury accounts | 0.69 | -0.23 | 1.53 |
| General budget outturn | -49.30 | -56.93 | -43.88 |

Source: Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry
for more information:

http://www.minefi.gouv.fr/minefi/chiffres/budget_etat/T

► Public finance: general government deficit and debt

As a % of GDP



Source: according to Maastricht Treaty, Insee and 2005 Budget bill

► Timetable for the release of French economic indicators

| February 2005 | March 2005 |
|--|--|
| 4 Industrial trends: quarterly survey for January 7 Gross foreign exchange reserves in January 8 Central government budget: statement at end of December 10 Industrial output in December 11 Foreign trade in December 15 Industrial Investments: January survey 16 Payroll employment: provisional results Q4-2004 16 Wages: provisional statistics Q4-2004 16 Balance of payments in November 18 National quarterly accounts: first results Q4-2004 22 Household consumption of manufactured goods in January 22 Consumer prices: final index for January 25 Industrial trends: February survey 25 Industrial producer prices: January index 25 Job seekers in January 28 Household confidence survey: February survey 28 Net foreign exchange reserves in January | 1 New building starts in January 1 Sales of new dwelling units: Q4-2004 7 Gross foreign exchange reserves in February 8 Central government budget: statement at end of January 10 Industrial output in January 11 Foreign trade in January 15 Consumer prices: final index for February 17 Payroll employment: final results Q4-2004 17 Balance of payments in January 22 Household consumption of manufactured goods in February 25 Wages: final statistics Q4-2004 29 Industrial producer prices: February index 30 New building starts in February 30 Industrial trends: monthly survey for March 31 Household confidence survey: March survey 31 Job seekers in February 31 Net foreign exchange reserves in February 31 Quarterly national accounts: final results Q4-2004 |

Harmonized index of consumer prices (Eurostat)

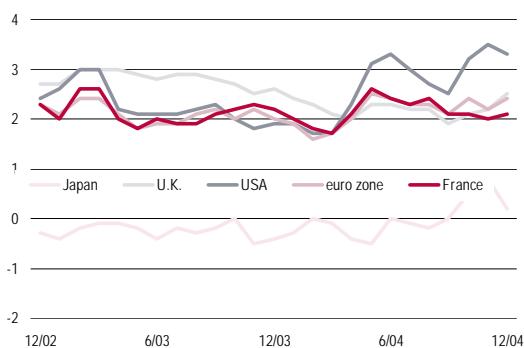
Index for January: February 28

Index for February: March 16

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

► Consumer price index

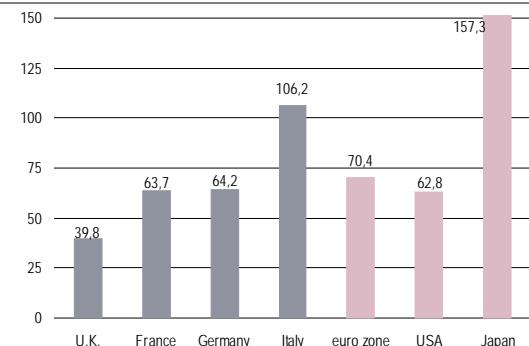
Year-on-year % change



Source: statistical institutes

► General government debt in 2003

As a % of GDP



Source: Eurostat, OECD



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MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE
DES FINANCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE



► **BTAN au 31 janvier 2005 / Treasury notes at January 31, 2005**

En euros

| CODE ISIN | Emprunt / Bond | Encours / Outstanding |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Échéance 2005 | 19 344 000 000 |
| FR0101659813 | BTAN 5% 12 juillet 2005 | 19 344 000 000 |
| | Échéance 2006 | 45 707 000 000 |
| FR0102626779 | BTAN 5% 12 janvier 2006 | 16 016 000 000 |
| FR0106589445 | BTAN 2,25% 12 mars 2006 | 13 158 000 000 |
| FR0103230423 | BTAN 4,5% 12 juillet 2006 | 16 533 000 000 |
| | Échéance 2007 | 33 360 000 000 |
| FR0103840098 | BTAN 3,75% 12 janvier 2007 | 17 284 000 000 |
| FR0104446556 | BTAN 4,75% 12 juillet 2007 | 16 076 000 000 |
| | Échéance 2008 | 36 671 000 000 |
| FR0105427795 | BTAN 3,5% 12 janvier 2008 | 19 335 000 000 |
| FR0105760112 | BTAN 3% 12 juillet 2008 | 17 336 000 000 |
| | Échéance 2009 | 31 941 000 000 |
| FR0106589437 | BTAN 3,5% 12 janvier 2009 | 16 714 000 000 |
| FR0106841887 | BTAN 3,5% 12 juillet 2009 | 15 227 000 000 |
| | Échéance 2010 | 9 604 000 000 |
| FR0107369672 | BTAN 3% 12 janvier 2010 | 9 604 000 000 |

Total BTAN / total Treasury notes **176 627 000 000**

Durée de vie moyenne des BTAN **2 ans et 165 jours**
Average maturity of BTANs **2 years and 165 days**

► **BTF au 31 janvier 2005 / Treasury bills at January 31, 2005**

En euros

| | Echéance / Maturity | Encours / Outstanding |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|
| BTF | 3 février 2005 | 4 007 000 000 |
| BTF | 10 février 2005 | 4 420 000 000 |
| BTF | 17 février 2005 | 4 142 000 000 |
| BTF | 24 février 2005 | 4 145 000 000 |
| BTF | 3 mars 2005 | 4 085 000 000 |
| BTF | 10 mars 2005 | 3 988 000 000 |
| BTF | 17 mars 2005 | 3 941 000 000 |
| BTF | 24 mars 2005 | 4 007 000 000 |
| BTF | 31 mars 2005 | 3 871 000 000 |
| BTF | 7 avril 2005 | 4 786 000 000 |
| BTF | 14 avril 2005 | 4 171 000 000 |
| BTF | 21 avril 2005 | 4 045 000 000 |
| BTF | 28 avril 2005 | 4 192 000 000 |
| BTF | 12 mai 2005 | 3 912 000 000 |
| BTF | 26 mai 2005 | 3 847 000 000 |
| BTF | 9 juin 2005 | 3 063 000 000 |
| BTF | 23 juin 2005 | 3 714 000 000 |
| BTF | 7 juillet 2005 | 4 097 000 000 |
| BTF | 21 juillet 2005 | 4 011 000 000 |
| BTF | 18 août 2005 | 3 810 000 000 |
| BTF | 15 septembre 2005 | 4 312 000 000 |
| BTF | 27 octobre 2005 | 3 971 000 000 |
| BTF | 24 novembre 2005 | 3 159 000 000 |
| BTF | 19 janvier 2006 | 4 016 000 000 |

Total BTF / total Treasury bills **95 712 000 000**

Durée de vie moyenne des BTF **112 jours**
Average maturity of BTFs **112 days**

Dette négociable de l'Etat au 31 janvier 2005 /
French government negotiable debt at January 31, 2005

Encours total / total outstanding **832 775 690 619**

Durée de vie moyenne **6 ans et 126 jours**
Average maturity **6 years and 126 days**

Réserve de titres de la Caisse de la dette publique au
31 janvier 2005/
Securities held in reserve by Caisse de la dette publique at
January 31, 2005

néant / void