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MONTHLY BULLETIN - N° 191 - April 2006

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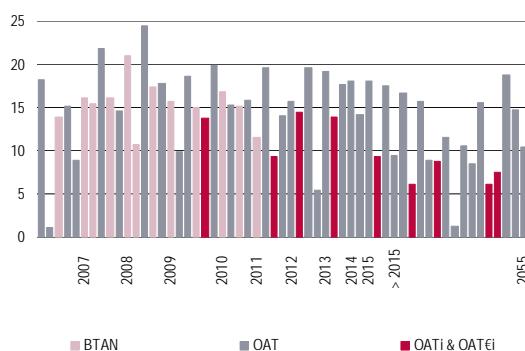
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DEBT GENERAL DATA

► French government long- and medium-term negotiable debt on March 31, 2006

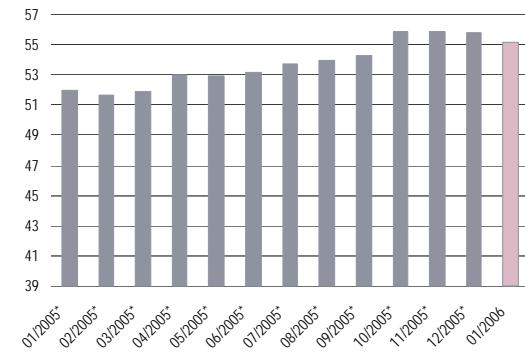
nominal value of each line, €bn



Source: Agence France Trésor

► Non-resident holdings of French government negotiable debt securities

as a % of negotiable debt outstanding



Source: balance of payments – Banque de France

Note: following the revised figures of the French securities held by non-residents at the end of 2004, the Banque de France has readjusted the outstanding amount related to the negotiable Government debt securities held by non-residents in 2003 and has reevaluated the stock for 2004 (**).

(*) figures quarterly revised (**) figures annually revised April 19th, 2006: Data of February on the Agence France Trésor website www.aft.gouv.fr.

PRIMARY MARKET

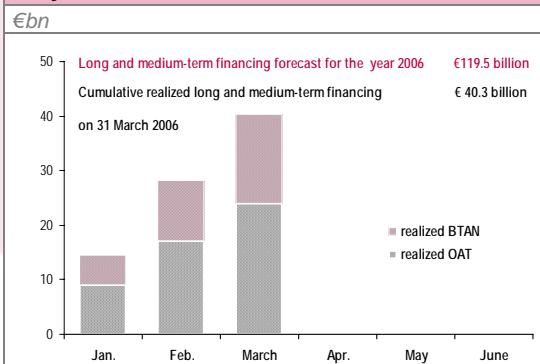
► Auction indicative calendar

		BTF				BTAN / index linked OAT	OAT
April 2006	auction date	3	10	18	24	20	6
	settlement date	6	13	20	27	25	11
May 2006	auction date	2	9	15	22	29	18
	settlement date	4	11	18	24	01 June	23

■ anticipated or delayed auctions (bank holidays, etc.)

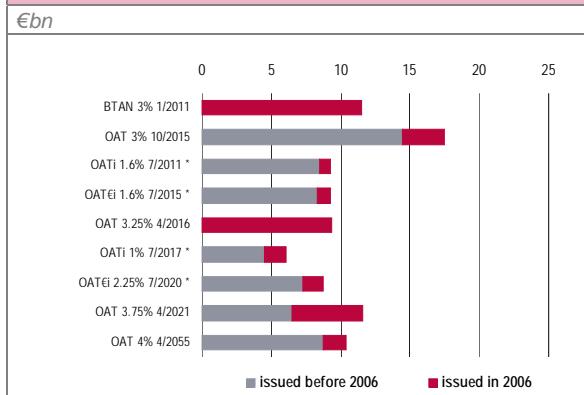
Source: Agence France Trésor

► Long- and medium-term financing over the year on March 31, 2006



Source: Agence France Trésor

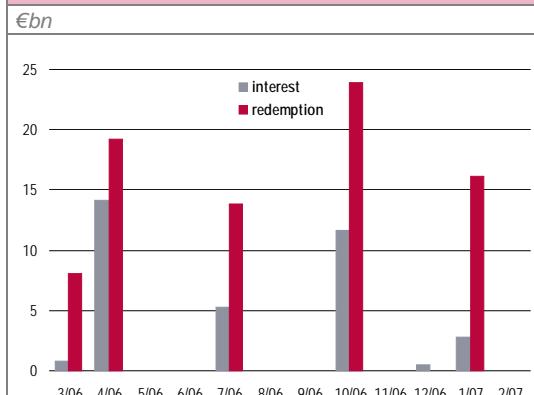
► OATs and BTANs issues and cumulative total on March 31, 2006



* nominal value

Source: Agence France Trésor

► OATs and BTANs: indicative repayment schedule on March 31, 2006



Source: Agence France Trésor

► OAT and BTAN auctions – March 2006

€m	OAT 10 years	OAT 15 years	BTAN 2 years	BTAN 5 years	OATi 10 ans	OATi 15 ans
	4/25/2016 3.25%	4/25/2021 3.75%	3/12/2008 2.75%	1/12/2011 3.00%	7/25/2017 1.00%	7/25/2020 2.25%
Auction date	3/2/2006	3/2/2006	3/16/2006	3/16/2006	3/16/2006	3/16/2006
Settlement date	7/3/2006	7/3/2006	21/3/2006	21/3/2006	21/3/2006	21/3/2006
Amount announced	< 5,000 - 5,500 >		< 5,000 - 5,500 >		< 1,000 - 1,500 >	
Bid amount	7,570	4,905	6,610	7,215	1,905	1,608
Amount served	2,949	2,265	2,652	2,630	750	718
of which: NCTs before auction	0	0	0	33	0	8
NCTs after auction					2	153
Total issued amount	2,949	2,265	2,652	2,630	752	871
Bid-to-cover ratio	2.57	2.17	2.49	2.74	2.54	2.24
Weighted average price	97.58%	100.75%	99.15%	97.94%	94.14%	107.62%
Yield to maturity	3.54%	3.68%	3.20%	3.47%	1.57%	1.65%
Indexation coefficient*	-	-	-	-	1.00580	1.04896
* as of the settlement date						
Source: Agence France Trésor						

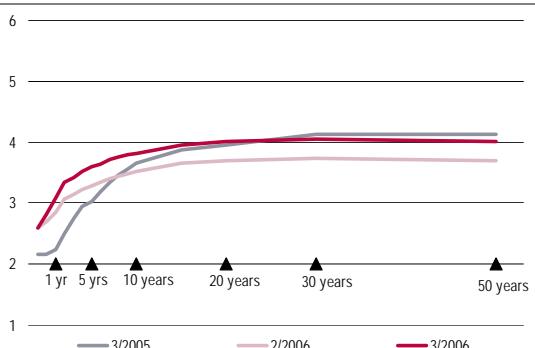
► BTF auctions – March 2006

€m	BTF	BTF	BTF	BTF
	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Auction date		3/6/2006		3/6/2006
Settlement date		3/9/2006		3/9/2006
Maturity		6/1/2006		2/15/2007
Total issued amount		1,807		1,403
Weighted average rate		2.494%		2.862%
Auction date	3/13/2006			3/13/2006
Settlement date	3/16/2006			3/16/2006
Maturity	6/15/2006			2/15/2007
Total issued amount	1,800			1,449
Weighted average rate	2.514%			2.901%
Auction date	3/20/2006			3/20/2006
Settlement date	3/23/2006			3/23/2006
Maturity	6/15/2006			3/15/2007
Total issued amount	1,801			1,465
Weighted average rate	2.534%			2.971%
Auction date	3/27/2006	3/27/2006		
Settlement date	3/30/2006	3/30/2006		
Maturity	6/29/2006	9/14/2006		
Total issued amount	1,803	1,405		
Weighted average rate	2.573%	2.716%		
Source: Agence France Trésor				

SECONDARY MARKET

► French government yield curve

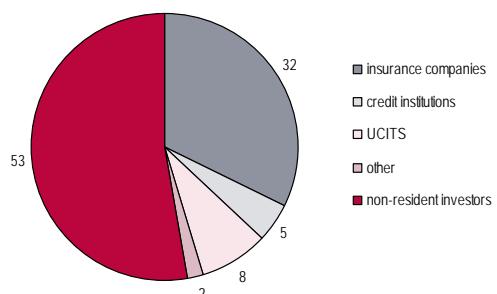
quote at end of the month, in %



Source: Bloomberg

► OAT ownership by type of holder fourth quarter 2005

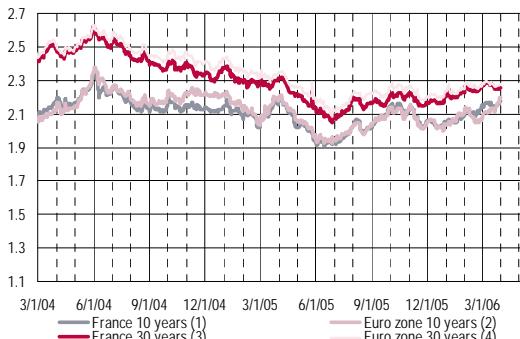
structure in %



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 OAT*e*i 3% July 2012

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

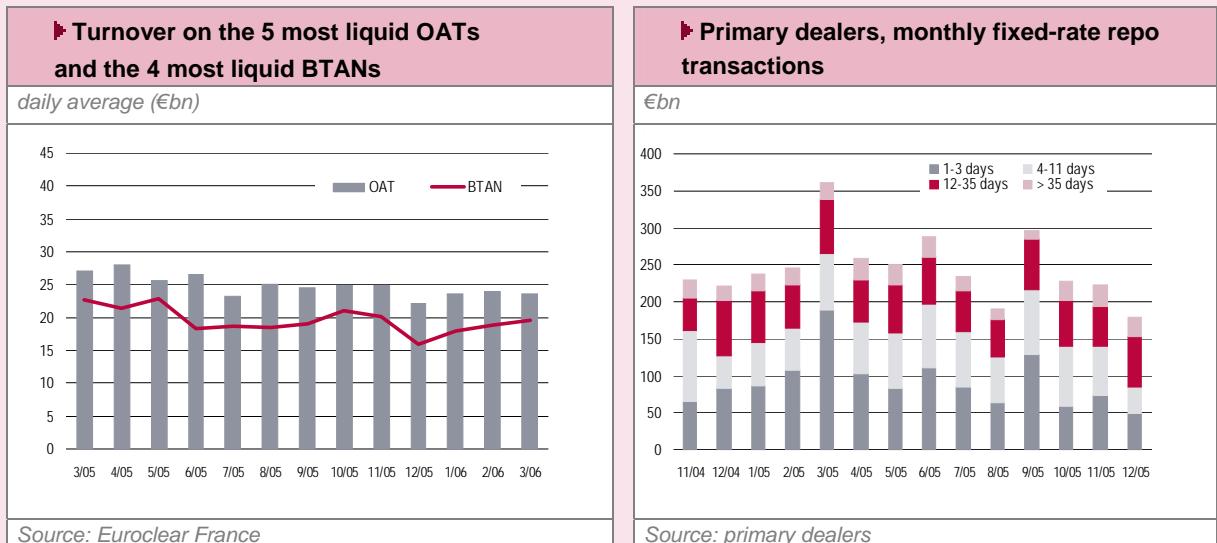
(4) difference between the yield of the OAT 5.75% October 2032 and the yield of the OAT*e*i 3.15% July 2032

► Negotiable government debt and swaps

€bn

	end 2000	end 2001	end 2002	end 2003	end 2004	end 2005	February 2006	March 2006
Negotiable government debt outstanding								
OAT	419	443	478	512	552	593	610	617
BTAN	154	158	151	167	184	189	188	185
BTF	43	52	88	109	97	95	92	88
Swaps outstanding	/I	37	61	61	61	52	53	52
Average maturity of the negotiable debt								
before swaps	6 years 64 days	6 years 47 days	5 years 343 days	5 years 297 days	6 years 79 days	6 years 267 days	6 years 302 days	6 years 316 days
after swaps	/I /I	5 years 358 days	5 years 266 days	5 years 235 days	6 years 33 days	6 years 228 days	6 years 266 days	6 years 279 days

Source: Agence France Trésor



Focus

► EU Countries: The Lisbon Scorecard (CER Assessment Of Lisbon Agenda), 2002-2006

Issues	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	EU-15 Heroes (2006)	EU-15 Villains (2006)
Information Society	B	B	B-	B-	C+	Denmark, Sweden	Greece
Research and Development	C-	C-	C	C-	C+	Finland, Sweden	Greece
Liberalization of Telecoms and Utilities	C+	C+	C+	B-	B-	U.K., Sweden	Greece, Portugal
Liberalization of Transport	C+	C+	C+	B-	D-	Denmark, Germany, Netherlands	EU Parliament, Greece
Business Start up Environment	B	C	C	B-	D	Denmark, U.K.	Greece
Regulatory Burden	B+	C+	C	C+	C-	U.K.	Italy, Greece, Portugal
State Aid And Competition Policy	B-	C+	C+	C+	B-	Sweden, U.K.	France
Bringing People Into Workforce	C	C	C-	C	B-	Denmark, Sweden	Greece, Italy
Upgrading Skills	B-	C+	C	C	C-	Finland, Sweden	Portugal
Modernization of Social Protection	C	B-	B-	C	B-	Denmark	Italy
Overall Assessment of the Lisbon Process	C	C	C	C+	C-	Denmark	Italy

Note: CER Scores Range from A (best) to D (worst). Sources: CER and Citigroup.

Euro Area: Reform Remains Gradual and Uneven

As the years go by, assessments of the euro area's progress in structural reforms remain pretty much the same: Some reforms are taking place, but progress is uneven and self-imposed targets largely remain out of reach. Recent assessments by the OECD and the Center for European Reform (CER) were in line with that norm. The piecemeal reform process is unlikely to prompt a further downward revision of investors' expectations of long-term euro-area performance. But equally, the slow pace of reform is unlikely to boost prospects for growth and job creation in the long run. Hence, markets will continue to expect the euro area to remain a place of moderate trend growth, low inflation and relatively low interest rates.

The CER's Lisbon Scorecard points out that the self-set EU goals of creating a fast-growing, knowledge-based economy by 2010 are unlikely to be achieved. This is not particularly a surprise, as many of the 2000 Lisbon Summit targets (agreed in a period of booming growth in the IT industries) have long looked too optimistic. But perhaps more interesting is the fact that in most areas of reform — and despite repeated political calls for speeding up changes — the EU has failed to improve its performance from the level of the past few years. The CER has now given a "C" rating (implying that the performance is insufficient to achieve targets) to the Lisbon process for three years in a row (see Figure 6). And in five out of the 10 main components of the scorecard, the rating for the EU 25 was unchanged compared to 2005.

Of course, not all is doom and gloom. As the Lisbon Scorecard registered, the regulatory environment for business improved last year (constraints on start-ups, regulatory burden). There was also progress in increasing internal competition and upgrading the skills of the workforce. The CER also emphasized the satisfactory pace of deregulation in the telecoms industry and in air travel. But in areas where reforms are potentially more painful for workers in the short term (modernizing social protection, privatizing or deregulating public utilities) progress remains harder to achieve. The Lisbon Scorecard also highlights the continued dichotomy between the good performance of "northern Europe" (the UK, the Nordic countries, the Netherlands) and the lagging one of southern countries (Italy, Greece, Spain).

The latest round of public unrest in France — a country that received better marks from both the CER and the OECD this year — highlights the continued public resistance to reform in the large EMU member states. As had already been the case several times in the past two decades, a reform that was relatively modest in size — the introduction of a new, more flexible labor contract for the under-26 year-olds, entailing a two-year "trial period" — has been portrayed as a "Trojan horse" for introducing greater job insecurity and poorer working conditions for all workers in general. Now that the project has been abandoned, the risk is strong of a delay in other potential reforms, given election deadlines and the deterioration in the social climate.

The slow process of government reforms does not mean that nothing is changing in the euro area. With no major impetus from governments, companies restructured themselves significantly in recent years. Without far-reaching reforms in their home countries, companies (mainly German) took the opportunities in fast-growing markets — as evidenced by the surge in FDI outflows to new EU members or non-EU countries. This pattern probably will continue in coming years. This suggests that without far-reaching government-led reforms the gap between strong corporate profits and relatively subdued domestic investment/job creation — a characteristic of the past few years — will persist. The euro area will only achieve a combination of high corporate profit growth and high household income growth with new supply-side reforms.

Economic and Market Analysis
Jean-François Mercier
Citigroup

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 %

	2005	2006	2007
French GDP	1.4	< 2 - 2.5 >	< 2 - 2.5 >
Euro zone GDP	1.3	2.0	1.9
Household consumption	2.1	2.3	2.5
Business investment	3.7	3.9	4.2
Exports	3.2	6.5	6.1
Imports	6.6	6.8	6.1
Consumer prices (year-on-year)	1.8	1.7	1.7

Source: Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry

► Recent economic indicators

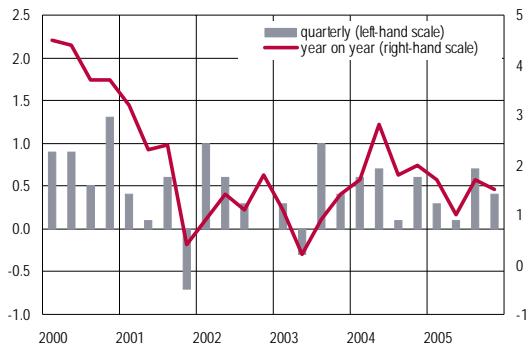
Industrial output*, year-on-year	0.1%	1/2006
Household consumption*, year-on-year	4.5%	2/2006
Unemployment rate (ILO)	9.6%	2/2006
Consumer prices, year-on-year		
all items	1.9%	2/2006
all items excluding tobacco	1.8%	2/2006
Trade balance, fob-fob, sa	-2.4 EUR bn	1/2006
" "	-2.6 EUR bn	12/2005
Current account balance, sa	-3.2 EUR bn	1/2006
" "	-3.4 EUR bn	12/2005
10-year interest rate (TEC10)	3.80%	03/31/2006
3-month interest rate (Euribor)	2.816%	03/31/2006
EUR / USD	1.2104	03/31/2006
EUR / JPY	142.42	03/31/2006

*manufactured goods –

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

► Gross domestic product at 2000 prices

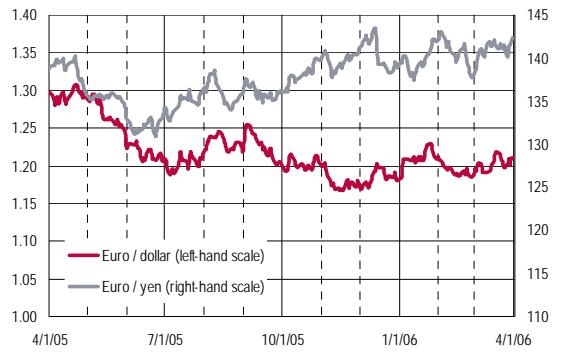
Variation in %



Source: Insee, quarterly national accounts

► Euro exchange rate

Daily quotes



Source: European Central Bank

► Government budget monthly position

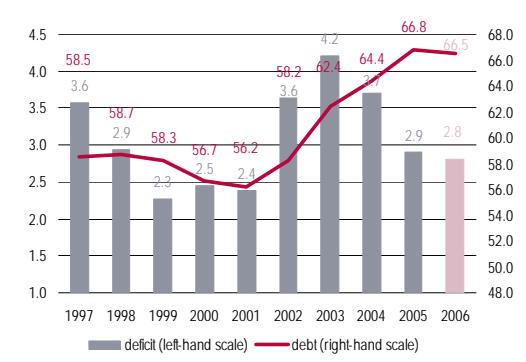
€bn

	end-of-February level				
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2006
General budget balance	-45.41	-45.15	-15.56	-13.94	-4.29
revenue	242.99	249.11	33.70	32.51	29.47
expenditure	288.40	294.26	49.26	46.45	33.76
Balance of special Treasury accounts	1.53	1.68	-5.30	-5.64	-9.04
General budget outturn	-43.88	-43.47	-20.86	-19.58	-13.33

*Source: Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry
for more information:
http://www.minefi.gouv.fr/themes/finances_etat/budget/index.htm*

► Public finance: general government deficit and debt

As a % of GDP



Source: according to Maastricht Treaty, Insee and Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry

► Timetable for the release of French economic indicators

April 2006	May 2006
6 Central government budget: statement at end of February	3 New building starts in March
7 Gross foreign exchange reserves in March	9 Gross foreign exchange reserves in April
7 Cost-of-construction: index Q4-2005	10 Central government budget: statement at end of March
10 Industrial output in February	10 Industrial output in March
11 Foreign trade in February	12 Foreign trade in March
13 Consumer prices: index for March	12 Consumer prices: final index for April
19 Balance of payments in February	17 Payroll employment: provisional results Q1-2006
21 Household consumption of manufactured goods in March	17 Wages: provisional statistics Q1-2006
24 Industrial trends: April survey	17 Industrial investments: quarterly April survey
27 Industrial trends: quarterly survey for April	19 Balance of payments in March
28 Industrial producer prices: March index	19 Quarterly national accounts: first results Q1-2006
28 Household confidence survey: April survey	19 Annualy national accounts: first results 2005
28 Job seekers in March	23 Household consumption of manufactured goods in April
28 Net foreign exchange reserves in March	23 Industrial trends: monthly survey for May
	31 Industrial producer prices: April index
	31 Household confidence survey: May survey
	31 Job seekers in April
	31 New building starts in April
	31 Net foreign exchange reserves in April

Harmonized index of consumer prices – Eurostat)

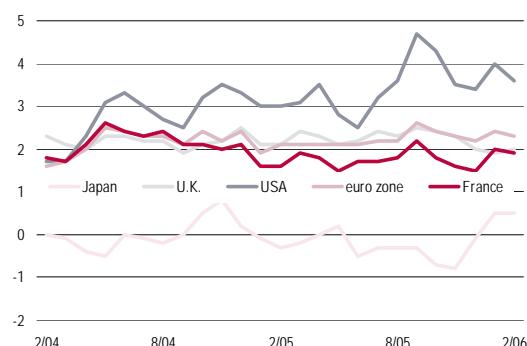
Index for March: April 20

Index for April: May 17

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

► Consumer price index

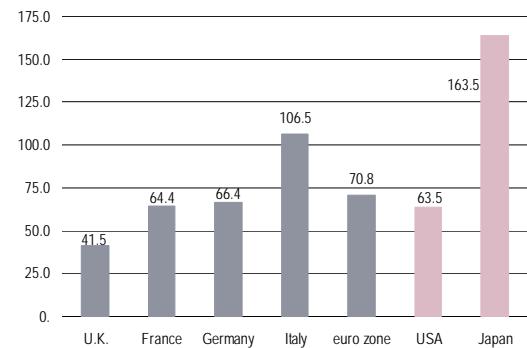
Year-on-year % change



Source: statistical institutes

► General government debt in 2004

As a % of GDP



Source: Eurostat, OECD



► BTAN au 31 mars 2006

Treasury notes at March 31, 2006

En euros		
CODE ISIN	Emprunt / Bond	Encours / Outstanding
	Échéance 2006	13 894 000 000
FR0103230423	BTAN 4,5% 12 juillet 2006	13 894 000 000
	Échéance 2007	47 729 000 000
FR0103840098	BTAN 3,75% 12 janvier 2007	16 177 000 000
FR0107489959	BTAN 2,25% 12 mars 2007	15 476 000 000
FR0104446556	BTAN 4,75% 12 juillet 2007	16 076 000 000
	Echéance 2008	48 984 000 000
FR0105427795	BTAN 3,5% 12 janvier 2008	20 935 000 000
FR0108197569	BTAN 2,75% 12 mars 2008	10 713 000 000
FR0105760112	BTAN 3% 12 juillet 2008	17 336 000 000
	Echéance 2009	30 648 000 000
FR0106589437	BTAN 3,5% 12 janvier 2009	15 686 000 000
FR0106841887	BTAN 3,5% 12 juillet 2009	14 962 000 000
	Echéance 2010	31 962 000 000
FR0107369672	BTAN 3% 12 janvier 2010	16 821 000 000
FR0107674006	BTAN 2,5% 12 juillet 2010	15 141 000 000
	Echéance 2011	11 479 000 000
FR0108354806	BTAN 3% 12 janvier 2011	11 479 000 000
Total BTAN / total Treasury notes		184 696 000 000
Durée de vie moyenne des BTAN		2 ans et 112 jours
<i>Average maturity of BTANs</i>		<i>2 years and 112 days</i>

► BTF au 31 mars 2006

Treasury bills at March 31, 2006

En euros		
BTF	6 avril 2006	3 856 000 000
BTF	13 avril 2006	3 655 000 000
BTF	20 avril 2006	3 801 000 000
BTF	27 avril 2006	3 810 000 000
BTF	4 mai 2006	3 609 000 000
BTF	11 mai 2006	3 979 000 000
BTF	18 mai 2006	3 609 000 000
BTF	24 mai 2006	3 806 000 000
BTF	1 juin 2006	3 616 000 000
BTF	8 juin 2006	3 891 000 000
BTF	15 juin 2006	3 601 000 000
BTF	29 juin 2006	1 803 000 000
BTF	6 juillet 2006	3 606 000 000
BTF	20 juillet 2006	3 704 000 000
BTF	3 août 2006	3 808 000 000
BTF	31 août 2006	3 841 000 000
BTF	14 septembre 2006	4 297 000 000
BTF	28 septembre 2006	3 711 000 000
BTF	26 octobre 2006	3 803 000 000
BTF	23 novembre 2006	4 144 000 000
BTF	21 décembre 2006	3 791 000 000
BTF	18 janvier 2007	4 777 000 000
BTF	15 février 2007	4 257 000 000
BTF	15 mars 2007	1 465 000 000
Total BTF / total Treasury bills		88 240 000 000
Durée de vie moyenne des BTF		126 jours
<i>Average maturity of BTFs</i>		<i>126 days</i>

Dette négociable de l'Etat au 31 mars 2006 /

French government negotiable debt at March 31, 2006

Encours total / total outstanding	889 911 743 528
Durée de vie moyenne	6 ans et 316 jours
Average maturity	6 years and 316 days

Réserve de titres de la Caisse de la dette publique au 31 mars 2006 /

Securities held in reserve by Caisse de la dette publique at March 31, 2006

néant / void