Government of India Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs Economic Division 8(2)/Ec. Dn/2004

MONTHLY ECONOMIC REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Pre-Monsoon season rainfall from June 1, 2004 to September 22, 2004 was normal/excess in 64 per cent meteorological sub-divisions.
- Foodgrain stocks were 26.54 million tonnes as on August 1, 2004
- Overall industrial growth was 7.8 per cent in April-July, 2004 as compared with 5.9 per cent in April-July, 2003.
- Core infrastructure sectors achieved an average growth rate of 5.6 per cent in April-August, 2004 as compared with 4.2 per cent in April-August, 2003.
- Broad Money (M3) growth (year-on-year) was 14.1 per cent as on September 17, 2004 as compared with 12.0 per cent last year.
- Exports grew by 26.1 per cent in dollar terms in April-August, 2004 as compared with 5.8 per cent in the corresponding period last year. Imports grew by 30.4 per cent during April-August, 2004 as compared with 21.8 per cent last year.
- Forex reserves (excluding Gold and SDRs) stood at \$ 112.72 billion as on August 31, 2004.
- Rupee appreciated against Pound Sterling, Japanese Yen and Euro and depreciated against US Dollar in August, 2004.
- The annual inflation rate in terms of WPI (Base 1993-94=100) was 7.80 per cent for the week ended September 18, 2004 as compared with 5.02 per cent a year ago.
- Tax revenue (net to Centre) in April-August 2004 (provisional) was higher by 16.5 per cent over April-August 2003.
- Fiscal deficit in April-August 2004 is 38.2 per cent of BE compared with 28.3 per cent of BE in the corresponding period last year.
- Revenue deficit is also higher at 82.6 per cent of BE compared with 54.1 per cent in the corresponding previous period.

(G.R.Reddy) Adviser

AGRICULTURE

MONSOON SEASON RAINFALL*

The monsoon season rainfall from June 1, 2004 to September 22, 2004 was normal/excess in 23 meteorological sub-divisions (64 per cent) and deficient/scanty in the remaining 13 (36 per cent). The annual average for 1999-2003 was normal/excess in 26 (73 per cent) meteorological sub-divisions and deficient/scanty in the remaining 10 (27 per cent).

Number of Meteorological Sub-divisions

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999- 2003+	2004
Excess/Normal	28	26	29	15	33	26	23
Deficient/Scanty/Nil	8	10	7	21	3	10	13
Total	36	36	36	36	36	36	36

^{* (}June-September)

PROCUREMENT

Wheat procurement up to September 27, 2004 in the current marketing year (i.e. 2004-05) was higher by 6.3 per cent at 16.80 million tonnes compared with 15.80 million tonnes in the corresponding period of 2003-04. Procurement of rice during the marketing year 2003-04 (up to September 27, 2004) at 22.83 million tonnes was higher by 39.4 per cent than the level of 16.38 million tonnes during the corresponding period of 2002-03.

		Full Marketing Year					% change
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2003	2004	Col
							7/Col.6
			Million T	onnes			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rice(Oct-Sept.)	19.59	21.28	16.41		16.38	22.83	39.4
Wheat(Apr-Mar)	16.36	20.63	19.06	15.80	15.80	16.80	6.3
Total	35.95	41.91	35.47	15.80	32.18	39.63	23.2

OFF-TAKE

Off-take from the Public Distribution System from Central Pool during April-July, 2004 was 12.26 million tonnes which was lower by 37.23 per cent than the off-take of 19.54 million tonnes during the corresponding period of last year.

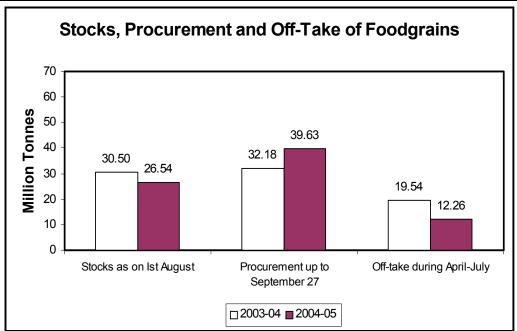
	2001-02(P)	2002-03(P)	2003-04(P)	April-	July
				2003-04(P)	2004-05(P)
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Milli	on Tonnes		
Rice	15.32	24.64	25.04	10.45	6.91
Wheat	15.99	24.99	24.29	9.09	5.35
Total	31.30	49.63	49.33	19.54	12.26

⁺ Annual Average

STOCKS

Stocks of foodgrains as on August 1, 2004 was 26.54 million tonnes which was lower by 13.0 per cent than the level of 30.50 million tonnes as on August 1, 2003.

	As on	July 1	As on August 1		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	
Rice	10.98	10.76	8.07	9.11	
Wheat	24.19 19.16		22.43	17.43	
Total	35.17	29.92	30.50	26.54	



INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

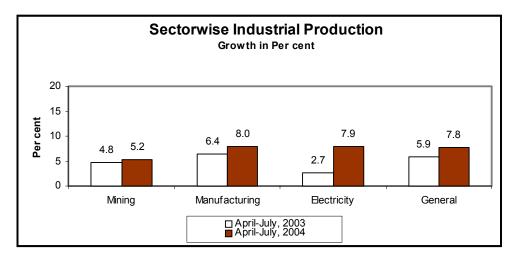
The overall growth rate of Industrial production during April-July, 2004 was 7.8 percent as compared to 5.9 percent during April-July, 2003. The growth in mining, manufacturing and electricity during April-July, 2004 was 5.2 percent, 8.0 percent and 7.9 percent as compared to 4.8 percent, 6.4 percent and 2.7 percent respectively, during April-July, 2003.

As per the use-based classification, production in basic goods, capital goods and intermediate goods registered higher growth and consumer goods showed lower growth.

SECTORWISE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
(Base: 1993-94=100)

(Percentage change)

			,	,	(Percenta	ge change)
	2002-03	2003-04	July '03	July '04	April-	July
					2003-04	2004-05
General	5.7	6.9	6.6	7.9	5.9	7.8
Mining	5.8	5.2	2.9	3.7	4.8	5.2
Manufacturing	6.0	7.3	8.0	7.6	6.4	8.0
Electricity	3.2	5.1	-1.4	14.1	2.7	7.9
Use-Based Classification						
Basic goods	4.9	5.4	4.1	5.7	4.4	4.9
Capital goods	10.5	13.1	11.2	16.2	9.1	14.7
Intermediate goods	3.9	6.3	7.3	5.4	4.0	9.5
Consumer goods	7.1	7.1	7.2	10.3	8.8	7.2
Of which						
Consumer durables	-6.3	11.5	8.6	15.1	5.1	12.6
Consumer non-durables	12.0	5.7	6.7	8.7	9.9	5.5



INFRASTRUCTURE

The six core infrastructure industries registered a higher growth of 5.6 per cent in the period of April-August, 2004 as compared to 4.2 per cent in the corresponding period of last year.

PRODUCTION IN INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRIES								
		Aug	gust	FullYr. April-August		% Change		
							April-August	
Industry/Infrastructure	Unit	2003	2004	2003-04	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
Coal	Mn tons	25.9	26.2	354.7	131.4	138.5	3.7	5.4
Electricity Generation	Mn kw	44965	48180	558134	224340	241836	2.4	7.8
Hydel	Mn kw	7501	10589	73796	31029	38427	2.0	23.8
Thermal (including nuclear)	Mn kw	37464	37591	484338	193311	203409	2.5	5.2
Crude petroleum	000 tons	2735	2874	33384	13587	14220	-1.8	4.7
Petroleum Products	000 tons	9384	9796	113241	45454	49472	5.1	8.8
Finished steel	000 tons	3058	3138	36925.1	14917	15333	8.9	2.8
Cement	000 tons	9250	9322	123440	50570	52313	5.2	3.4
Average growth rate*	(%)	3.9	4.4	5.4	-	-	4.2	5.6
		July	July	Full Yr.	April	-July	Apri	il-July
Cargo handled at major ports	Mn tons	27.39	30.48	344.52	107.18	116.41	6.0	8.6
Telecommunications								
	000							
a) Net switching capacity	lines	200.29	450.38	1817.66	364.99	1617.44	-66.5	343.1
b) Net Tele. Connections	000 nos	1258.19	534.74	7804.86	2882.66	1962.83	295.5	-31.9
Revenue earning								
goods traffic on railways	Mn tons	45.46	49.66	557.39	178.60	190.90	7.2	6.9

^{*} Weights as in IIP (Base: 1993-94): Coal (3.2), Electricity generation (10.2), Crude oil (4.2), Refinery throughput (2.0), Finished Steel (5.1) and Cement (2.0).

Revenue Earning goods traffic handled by Railways

The revenue earning goods traffic handled by Railways in the month of April-July, 2004 increased by 6.9 per cent as compared to 7.2 per cent in the corresponding period of last year.

	Jı	ıly	Full Year	April	-July	%Change	
Commodities	2003	2004	2003-04	2003-2004	2004-2005	April- July, 03	April- July, 04
Coal	20.26	22.27	251.66	80.71	86.62	6.2	7.3
Raw material for Steel Plants	3.67	3.61	43.94	14.25	13.32	12.3	-6.5
Pig Iron & Finished Steel From Steel Plants	1.22	1.18	14.34	4.40	4.28	12.8	-2.7
Iron Ore for Exports	1.80	3.11	26.66	6.81	11.08	50.7	62.7
Cement	3.93	4.28	49.52	16.63	17.68	3.4	6.3
Foodgrains	4.11	4.28	45.43	15.38	15.48	6.5	0.7
Fertilizers	2.15	2.39	25.83	7.80	8.65	-10.4	10.9
POL	2.91	2.75	32.02	10.63	10.65	-11.5	0.2
Balance other goods	5.41	5.79	67.99	22.02	23.16	20.8	5.2
Total	45.46	49.66	557.39	178.63	190.92	7.2	6.9

MONEY AND BANKING

During the current financial year 2004-05, broad money stock (M3) (up to September 17, 2004) increased by 4.7 per cent as compared with the growth rate of 7.0 per cent registered during the corresponding period of the last year. The year-on-year growth as on September 17, 2004 was 14.1 per cent as compared with 12.0 per cent on the corresponding date of last year.

Among the sources of broad money supply, net foreign exchange assets (NFA) of the banking sector have emerged as the major source of growth up to September 17, 2004. These assets have grown by 9.9 per cent as compared with 11.6 per cent in the same period of last year. The annual growth rate of NFA as on September 17, 2004 was 31.7 per cent, which is much higher than the growth rate of 25.9 per cent achieved on the corresponding date of last year.

Items	Outstand	ling as on		% Vai	iations	
	(Rs. 0	erore)		ial year	Year-on-year	
			so	far		
	March 31,	Sept. 17,	2003-04	2004-05	2003	2004
	2004	2004				
M3(I+II+III+IV)	2003102	2097242	7.0	4.7	12.0	14.1
I. Currency with the public	315493	325995	4.4	3.3	12.9	15.0
II. Demand deposits with banks	256039	247750	2.4	-3.2	14.1	21.7
III. Time deposits with banks	1426451	1519208	8.3	6.5	11.6	12.8
IV. Other deposits with RBI	5119	4288	12.9	-16.2	5.2	17.2
Sources (1+2+3+4-5)						
1. Net bank credit to Govt. (A+B)	745499	741155	5.3	-0.6	11.9	4.1
A. RBI's net credit to Govt.	44907	4585	-47.7	-89.8	-50.8	-92.7
B. Other bank credit to Govt.	700591	736570	16.8	5.1	27.7	13.5
2. Bank credit to commercial sector	1017902	1102025	1.9	8.3	10.4	20.3
3. Net foreign exchange assets of banking	526586	578851	11.6	9.9	25.9	31.7
sector						
4. Government's currency liabilities to	7296	7329	2.2	0.6	6.5	1.5
the public						
5. Banking sector's net non-monetary	294181	332128	-8.3	12.9	30.6	40.1
liabilities other than time deposits						

Scheduled Commercial Banks: Business in India

During the current financial year (up to September 17, 2004) incremental gross bank credit increased by 9.3 per cent as compared with a growth of 0.9 per cent in the previous year. The year-on-year growth of gross bank credit as on September 17, 2004 was 25.0 per cent as against 11.2 per cent on the corresponding date of last year.

Non-Food credit during the financial year so far, registered a growth of 9.5 per cent as compared with an increase of 2.7 per cent during the same period of the last year. The annual growth rate was 26.2 per cent as compared with 14.9 per cent on the corresponding date of last year.

The year-on-year growth of time deposits with banks as on September 17, 2004 was higher at 14.0 per cent as compared with 11.7 per cent on the corresponding date of last year.

Items	Outstand	ling as on		% Vari	ations	
	(Rs. o	crore)		al year so	Year-on-year	
			f	ar		
	March	Sept. 17,	2003-	2004-05	2003	2004
	19, 2004	2004	04			
1. Bank credit	840786	919250	0.9	9.3	11.2	25.0
Food credit	35962	38189	-24.3	6.2	-29.8	1.9
Non-Food credit	804824	881061	2.7	9.5	14.9	26.2
2. Aggregate deposit	1504416	1585653	7.4	5.4	12.1	15.3
Demand deposit	225022	217128	3.2	-3.5	14.7	23.6
Time deposits	1279394	1368525	8.0	7.0	11.7	14.0
3. Investments in Govt. and other	677587	710985	14.7	4.9	25.0	13.2
approved securities						
Government securities	654757	684421	15.4	4.5	26.7	13.3
Other approved securities	22830	26564	-1.7	16.4	-6.7	12.0

INTEREST RATES (PER CENT PER ANNUM)

As on September 17, 2004 Bank Rate was 6.00 per cent same as on the corresponding date of last year. Call money rates (borrowing) were lower in the range of 2.05/6.12 as compared with 3.45/4.70 per cent on the corresponding date of last year.

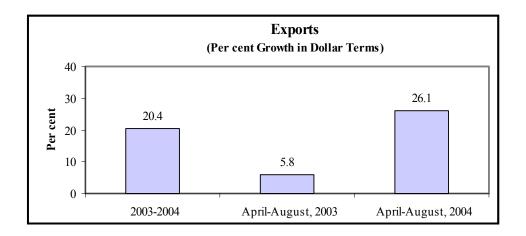
Item/week ended	2003	2004
	Sept. 19	Sept. 17
1	2	3
Bank Rate	6.00	6.00
IDBI ¹	12.50	10.25
Prime Lending Rate ²	10.50-11.50	10.25-10.75
Deposit Rate ³	4.75-6.00	5.00-5.50
Call Money Rate ⁴ (Low/High)		
Borrowings	3.45/4.70	2.05/6.12
Lending	3.45/4.75	1.83/5.40

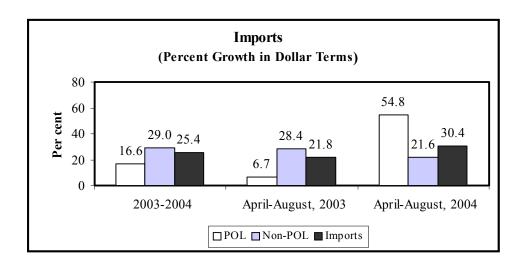
- 1. Minimum Term Lending Rate (MTLR)
- 2. Prime Lending Rate relates to five major Banks
- 3. Deposit Rate relates to major banks for term deposits of more than one year maturity.
- 4. Call money rates are based on data covering 90-95 per cent of total transactions reported by major participants.

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports in dollar terms during April-August, 2004 increased by 26.1 percent as compared to an increase of 5.8 percent during April-August, 2003. Imports increased by 30.4 percent during April-August, 2004 as against an increase of 21.8 percent last year.

			April-August		% C	hange
Item	2002-03 (R)	2003-04(PR)	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
		Rs. Cro	re			
Exports	255137	291582	101956	125200	1.1	22.8
Imports	297206	353976	132887	168691	16.4	26.9
POL	85367	94520	35368	53291	2.0	50.7
Non-POL	211839	259456	97520	115400	22.7	18.3
Trade Balance	-42069	-62394	-30931	-43491	-	-
		Million Do	ollars			
Item						
Exports	52719	63454	21852	27552	5.8	26.1
Imports	61412	77032	28474	37138	21.8	30.4
POL	17640	20569	7579	11734	6.7	54.8
Non-POL	43773	56463	20895	25404	28.4	21.6
Trade Balance	-8693	-13578	-6622	-9586	-	-
(R): Revised (PR):	Partially Revised	·				





FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES (EXCLUDING GOLD & SDRs)

At the end of March, 1996 March, 1997 March, 1998	58446 80368	\$ Million 17044 22367	Rs.Crore (over la			
March, 1996 March, 1997	80368					
March, 1997	80368		-7560			
*		22367	1000	-3765		
March, 1998	100-0-	22307	21922	5323		
	102507	25975	22139	3608		
March, 1999	125412	29522	22905	3547		
March, 2999	152924	35058	27512	5536		
March, 2001	184482	39554	31558	4496		
March, 2002	249118	51049	64636	11495		
March, 2003	341476	71890	92358	20841		
March, 2004	466215	107448	124739	35558		
2004-2005			(over last month)			
April	501429	113011	35214	5563		
May	519847	114102	18418	1091		
June	524865	114151	5018	49		
July	524732	112967	-133	-1184		
August*	522333	112717	-2399	-250		
September						
October						
November						
December						
January						
February						
March						
* Provisional						

EXTERNAL AID RECEIPTS AND DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

Gross external aid during April-June, 2004 at Rs 2124 crore was 12.4 percent lower than that of Rs 2426 crore in the same period of last year. Net Aid flows (net of repayment) were Rs. 462 crore as compared with Rs. (-) 1380 crore during the same period of last year. Net Aid Transfers (net of repayment and interest payment) were Rs. (-) 213 crore as compared with Rs. (-) 2272 crore during the same month of last year.

EXTERNAL AID RECEIPTS AND DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS*

(Rs crore)

	_			ment of			
	Receipts		Principal		Payment of Interest		
	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	
Loans - Govt A/C	1864	1717	2621	1590	799	607	
Grants - Govt A/C	208	127	-	-	-	-	
Total	2072	1844	2621	1590	799	607	
Non-Govt. loans	331	261	1185	71	94	69	
Grants Non-Govt	23	19	-	-	-	-	
Grand Total	2426	2124	3806	1661	893	676	
	(516)	(473)	(809)	(370)	(190)	(150)	
Net Flows	-1380	462	-	-	-	-	
(net of repayment)							
Net Transfers							
(net of repayment and	-2272	-213	-	-	-	-	
interest payments)							
* April -June							
Note: Figures in brackets are in terms of million US \$							

Rupees Per Unit of foreign Currency

The average market exchange rate of the Rupee during August, 2004 appreciated against Pound Sterling, Euro and Japanese Yen and depreciated against US Dollar as compared with average market exchange rate of the Rupee during July, 2004.

			(Market Ra			
	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	Japanese Yen	Euro		
March, 2001	46.62	67.39	0.3846	42.44		
March, 2002	48.74	69.37	0.3723	42.75		
March, 2003	47.64	75.44	0.4015	51.52		
March, 2004	45.08	82.29	0.4141	55.25		
2003-2004						
April	43.93	79.24	0.4081	52.66		
May	45.25	80.88	0.4037	54.35		
June	45.51	83.21	0.4159	55.25		
July	46.04	84.86	0.4212	56.51		
August	46.34	84.33	0.4196	56.43		
September						
October						
November						
December						
January						
February						
March						
@ FEDAI Rates						

INFLATION

The annual rate of inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) stood at 7.80 per cent for week ended September 18, 2004 compared with 5.02 per cent a year ago. This rate was contributed by an increase of 6.52 per cent in Primary Articles, 10.65 per cent increase in Fuel, Power, Lights and Lubricants and 7.37 per cent increase in Manufactured Products as against an increase of 3.19 per cent, 6.40 per cent and 5.19 per cent respectively on the corresponding date of last year.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX

WHOLESALE PRICE (Base: 1993-94)								
Itams/Cuanns	Waisht(0/)	Percent variation during						
Items/Groups	Weight(%)	Month		Year (Point to Point)				
				(ending 11-9-2004)				
		Last year	Current year	Last	Current			
				year	year			
All Commodities	100.00	1.04	0.69	5.02	7.80			
1.Primary articles	22.03	1.80	0.00	3.19	6.52			
2. fuel,Power,Light and Libricants	14.23	2.00	0.86	6.40	10.65			
3. Manufactured Products	63.75	0.39	0.96	5.19	7.37			

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for July, 2004 which stood at 517, increased by 1.0 per cent over previous month's level and increased by 3.2 percent over July, 2003.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND INFLATION RATE (%)						
	2003-04	2004-05				
	(Up to July, 2003)	(Up to July, 2004)				
Annual Inflation	4.2	3.2				
Financial Year Inflation	2.9	2.6				
% Change over last month	0.8	1.0				
Level of Index	501	517				
Average of Index for 12 months ending July	489.00	505.00				

PUBLIC FINANCE

Trends in Central Government Finances: April-August 2004

	Budget Estimates	April-A	August	Col.3 as % of	Col. 4 as % of	% Change over proceeding year	
	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04 BE	2004-05 BE	2003-04	2004-05 (4/3)
		(Rs. Crore)		DE	DE		(4/3)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7))	(8)
1. Revenue Receipts	309322	63698	68357	25.1	22.1	-4.5	7.3
Gross tax revenue	317733	63303	75414	25.2	23.7	1.6	19.1
Tax (net to Centre)	233906	39238	45721	21.3	19.5	-4.6	16.5
Non Tax	75416	24460	22636	35.1	30.0	-4.3	-7.5
2. Capital Receipts	168507	81241	85261	43.9	50.6	23.7	4.9
of which:							
Recovery of loans	27100	36676	32565	203.5	120.2	412.2	-11.2
Other Receipts	4000	1098	187	8.3	4.7		
Borrowings and other	137407	43467	52509	28.3	38.2	-21.7	20.8
liabilities 3. Total Receipts (1+2)	477829	144939	153618	33.0	32.1	9.5	6.0
4. Non-Plan Expenditure	332239	108737	115818	34.2	34.9	11.2	6.5
(a)+(b) (a) Revenue Account	293650	102108	106320	35.3	36.2	12.9	4.1
Of which:							
Interest payments	129500	42558	45091	34.5	34.8	2.0	6.0
Major Subsidies	42021	20689	18422	42.5	43.8	56.6	-11.0
Pensions	15928	4802	6299	31.0	39.5	14.6	31.2
(b) Capital Account	38589	6629	9498	23.3	24.6	-10.0	43.3
5. Plan Expenditure (i)+(ii)	145590	36202	37800	29.9	26.0	4.7	4.4
(i) Revenue Account	91843	22359	24943	29.1	27.2	2.5	11.6
(ii) Capital Account	53747	13843	12857	31.4	23.9	8.3	-7.1
6. Total Expenditure (4)+(5)=(a)+(b)	477829	144939	153618	33.0	32.1	9.5	6.0
(a)Revenue Expenditure	385493	124467	131263	34.0	34.1	10.9	5.5
(b)Capital Expenditure	92336	20472	22355	28.2	24.2	1.6	9.2
7. Revenue Deficit	76171	60769	62906	54.1	82.6	33.5	3.5
8. Fiscal Deficit	137407	43467	52509	28.3	38.2	-21.7	20.8
9. Primary Deficit	7907	909	7418	3.0	93.8	-93.4	716.1

Source: CGA, Ministry of Finance, (Department of Expenditure).

Note:

(i) The figures of Railways have been netted as in Budget.

(ii) Un-audited.