

## Economic round-up

Positive signs for the Japanese economy suggest the country is at last on the road to recovery. But what about the rest of the world – is the economic outlook positive?

1 Look at the words below and check you know which are positive and which are negative.

downturn	upturn	slow-down	stagnation	buoyant	slump
recession	growth	gloomy	recovery	pick up	bankruptcy

2 Read the economic report and do the following:

a Find ten of the terms in 1.

b Check the predictions you made at the beginning.

### Hope for Japanese recovery

Japan's economy is growing faster than expected, raising hopes that the country might finally be emerging from a decade-long downturn.

GDP expanded by 1% in the second quarter. This is the highest level of quarterly growth since the 1.3 % rise in the last quarter of 2000, the government announced. Meanwhile, the US economy has grown by only 2.5% in the same period while growth in the Eurozone has been even slower – just 0.2% over the year.

According to the Cabinet Office, Japan's economy "appears to be on a steady path to recovery". GDP expansion is due to brisk capital investment, especially among mid-sized companies. Exports have begun to pick up and Japanese corporate bankruptcies fell in

August for the eighth consecutive month. The Bank of Japan voted to leave interest rates unchanged following evidence of the economic upturn.

Along with Japan, the US and Europe are expected to drive forward global economic growth. The recovery should continue next year, reaching 4.1% compared to the projected growth of 3.2% this year.

Nevertheless, the global picture is still a mixed one. Brazil appears to be entering recession; there are continuing fears for the struggling French economy and Australia's economy has reached its weakest level in more than two years. The slow-down has been caused by a sharp drop in exports and a slump in tourism. Stagnation in Australia has been blamed on the war in Iraq, the hot weather and the deadly Sars virus.

3 Read the report again and underline any more positive, negative or neutral words or phrases related to the economy that you can find.

4 Find one word in each line which does not form a collocation with the adjectives on the left.

<b>a economic</b>	downturn	income	upturn	slow-down	growth
<b>b global</b>	recession	policy	bankruptcy	picture	markets
<b>c sharp</b>	drop	fall	rise	movement	recession
<b>d steady</b>	slump	rise	path	income	job

5 Discuss the following questions in small groups and report your ideas to the class.

- How would you describe the economy in your country?
- Which factors do think are causing any positive or negative trends?
- What do you think will happen over the next few months?