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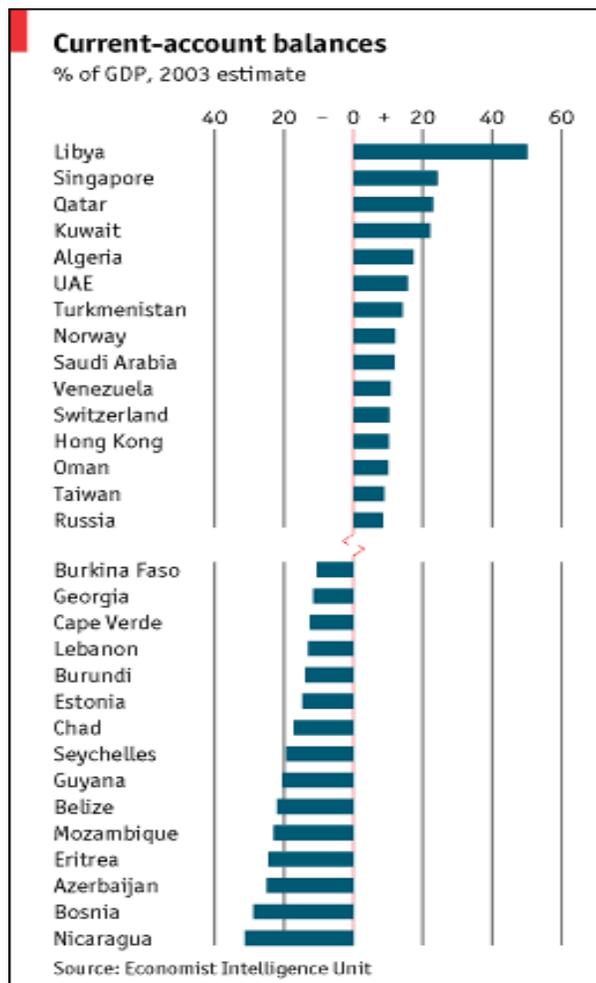
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Economist.com**MARKETS & DATA****Current-account balances**

Jan 24th 2004

From The Economist print edition

Foreign-exchange traders are mesmerised at the moment by America's big current-account deficit, worth 5% of GDP, but several developing countries have much larger deficits. Nicaragua, for example, ran a deficit of over 30% of GDP in 2003. In contrast, oil-producing countries chalked up big surpluses thanks to the continuing high price of oil. Libya headed the league with a surplus worth 50% of GDP. Some Asian economies, notably Singapore, also ran substantial surpluses last year.





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