



February 1997

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Lending Finance

Australia

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
March 1997	23 May 1997
April 1997	24 June 1997
May 1997	21 July 1997

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
n.y.a.	not yet available

INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

For further information about these statistics, contact Andrea McIntyre on Sydney (02) 9268 4784. Detailed data are also available from PC Ausstats, the ABS on-line time series data service under the subject *Financial Surveys*, then the titles *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation*, *Personal Finance*, *Commercial Finance* and *Lease Finance*.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

In February 1997, the monthly trend estimate for the value of finance commitments for owner occupied dwellings rose by 1.1% to \$4 295.0 million, the tenth consecutive rise and up 16.5% since the last trough in April 1996.

Seasonally adjusted, the value of commitments fell by 10.5% to \$4 129.8 million, offsetting the rise in the previous month.

PERSONAL FINANCE

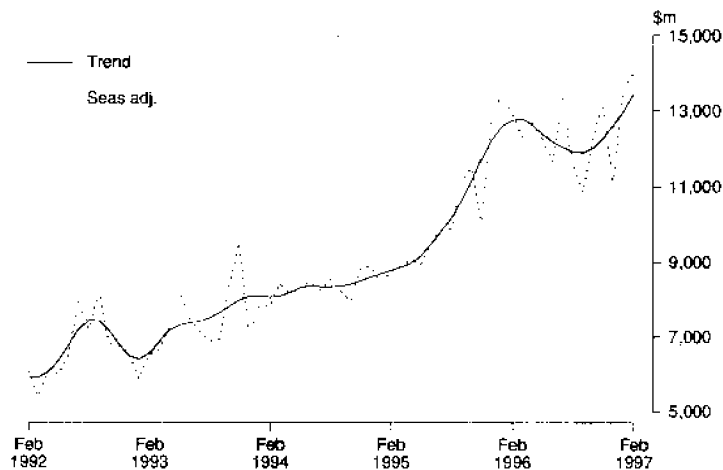
The trend estimate rose 2.5% to \$3 084.1 million in February 1997, the sixth consecutive monthly increase. The increase comprised a 4.6% rise in revolving credit and a 1.2% rise in fixed loans. Commitments under fixed loan facilities have been rising from September 1996 but still remain below the level recorded in February 1996. Monthly commitments under revolving credit facilities have been rising steadily for a year and were 36.8% higher than for February 1996.

Seasonally adjusted, personal finance commitments were \$3 194.6 million in February 1997, an increase of \$123.5 million (4.0%) on January 1997 and an increase of \$454.5 million (16.6%) on February 1996.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

The trend estimate rose 3.5% to \$13 451.9 million in February 1997. The increase comprised a 2.0% increase in fixed loans and a 4.9% increase in revolving credit. This is the fifth consecutive monthly increase, following six months of decrease. Commitments for February 1997 were 5.4% higher than for February 1996.

Readers should exercise care when interpreting the seasonally adjusted data. For further information, see Explanatory Note 14.



LEASE FINANCE

The trend estimate rose 2.7% in February 1997, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. The commitments of \$679.5 million recorded in February 1997 were 2.7% higher than the level recorded in February 1996.

Seasonally adjusted, lease finance commitments were \$686.3 million in February 1997, a decrease of \$75.9 million (10.0%) on January 1997 and a decrease of \$14.6 million (2.1%) on February 1996.

Month	SECURED HOUSING(a).....		PERSONAL.....			COMMERCIAL.....			LEASE
	Construction and purchase of dwellings	Alterations and additions	Fixed loan facilities	Revolving credit facilities(b)	Total	Fixed loan facilities	Revolving credit facilities(b)(c)	Total	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
1996									
February	3 884.2	309.3	1 852.8	748.1	2 600.9	4 964.1	5 506.5	10 470.6	595.3
March	4 059.2	327.7	1 909.9	741.8	2 651.7	5 992.6	5 998.0	11 990.7	672.8
April	3 503.8	276.8	1 686.1	914.7	2 600.8	4 613.1	7 216.3	11 829.4	581.7
May	4 056.0	316.2	1 925.4	1 056.4	2 981.8	6 210.9	6 674.9	12 885.8	741.6
June	3 520.3	297.0	1 704.5	1 112.9	2 817.4	7 700.5	6 841.2	14 541.7	914.1
July	4 226.1	336.4	1 874.9	1 311.8	3 186.7	6 961.5	7 595.6	14 557.1	755.2
August	4 054.6	304.4	1 696.2	1 078.6	2 774.8	5 555.9	5 502.1	11 058.0	637.4
September	4 044.2	267.5	1 687.5	1 008.3	2 695.8	5 494.9	5 350.3	10 845.1	578.5
October	4 098.2	272.9	1 763.9	1 212.1	2 976.0	5 425.0	6 100.7	11 525.7	598.4
November	3 980.5	229.7	1 574.4	1 049.2	2 623.6	5 696.5	6 195.7	11 892.2	566.8
December	3 854.0	212.9	1 666.3	1 133.8	2 800.0	6 743.6	6 203.2	12 946.8	633.0
1997									
January	3 758.3	219.1	1 726.5	1 017.3	2 743.8	5 183.3	6 740.8	11 924.1	558.8
February	4 031.4	233.3	1 772.9	1 094.1	2 867.0	5 134.9	5 768.5	10 903.3	580.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1996									
February	3 808.8	n.a.	1 875.2	864.9	2 740.1	5 557.0	7 370.4	12 927.4	700.9
March	3 724.0	n.a.	1 847.8	824.7	2 672.5	5 903.6	6 439.6	12 343.1	671.4
April	3 734.5	n.a.	1 850.3	1 012.7	2 863.1	5 413.6	7 259.9	12 673.5	649.0
May	3 586.1	n.a.	1 766.7	972.1	2 738.7	5 665.0	6 608.5	12 273.4	661.6
June	3 501.7	n.a.	1 650.1	1 032.0	2 682.1	5 958.5	5 712.7	11 671.2	681.2
July	3 960.4	n.a.	1 618.5	1 088.7	2 707.2	6 208.9	7 122.1	13 330.9	639.1
August	4 020.5	n.a.	1 790.4	1 038.6	2 829.0	5 390.0	6 298.3	11 688.3	695.5
September	4 160.0	n.a.	1 797.4	1 011.1	2 808.5	5 767.8	5 097.7	10 865.5	628.4
October	3 968.9	n.a.	1 630.7	1 044.0	2 674.7	5 317.6	6 913.2	12 230.8	595.2
November	3 958.1	n.a.	1 663.8	1 083.6	2 747.4	6 506.5	6 678.3	13 184.8	595.8
December	4 167.1	n.a.	1 812.2	1 123.7	2 935.9	6 397.7	4 765.5	11 163.2	587.2
1997									
January	4 612.1	n.a.	1 819.3	1 251.8	3 071.1	6 458.2	7 169.7	13 627.9	762.2
February	4 129.8	n.a.	1 856.7	1 337.9	3 194.6	6 219.6	7 779.5	13 999.1	686.3
TREND									
1996									
February	3 736.6	n.a.	1 833.8	926.4	2 760.2	5 577.3	7 183.8	12 761.1	661.7
March	3 708.0	n.a.	1 826.9	930.4	2 757.3	5 675.9	7 100.3	12 776.2	668.6
April	3 687.4	n.a.	1 800.8	950.1	2 750.8	5 759.3	6 895.1	12 654.4	671.7
May	3 700.5	n.a.	1 765.5	981.8	2 747.3	5 781.7	6 628.3	12 410.0	671.5
June	3 749.9	n.a.	1 730.8	1 013.3	2 744.1	5 764.9	6 427.2	12 192.1	668.1
July	3 822.1	n.a.	1 706.2	1 033.4	2 739.6	5 740.5	6 312.0	12 052.5	656.8
August	3 914.7	n.a.	1 695.7	1 039.4	2 735.1	5 747.4	6 189.4	11 936.8	642.3
September	4 004.5	n.a.	1 702.0	1 044.6	2 746.5	5 801.7	6 104.4	11 906.2	629.7
October	4 080.2	n.a.	1 720.0	1 065.7	2 785.7	5 908.2	6 114.5	12 022.6	623.9
November	4 140.7	n.a.	1 742.5	1 105.2	2 847.8	6 054.6	6 225.0	12 279.6	628.9
December	4 197.6	n.a.	1 767.5	1 156.9	2 924.4	6 212.8	6 416.7	12 629.5	642.9
1997									
January	4 248.9	n.a.	1 795.4	1 212.1	3 007.5	6 344.2	6 655.2	12 999.3	661.8
February	4 295.0	n.a.	1 816.3	1 267.7	3 084.1	6 473.3	6 978.6	13 451.9	679.5

(a) For owner occupation.

(b) New and increased credit limits during the period; includes credit cards.

(c) See Explanatory Note 14 on page 16 for further information on the seasonally adjusted data for this series.

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PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Fixed Loan Facilities: **Original**

Month	New motor cars and station wagons	Used motor cars and station wagons	Total motor vehicles(a)	Individual residential blocks of land	Unsecured owner occupied housing finance(b)	Debt consolidation	Refinancing	Other(c)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996									
February	208.9	480.5	736.9	90.3	63.4	160.6	378.2	423.3	1 852.8
March	217.4	484.0	751.8	80.8	66.3	175.0	393.3	442.6	1 909.9
April	207.6	445.7	701.2	83.0	63.3	150.1	320.2	368.2	1 686.1
May	239.8	508.8	801.3	95.9	62.1	170.4	363.2	432.6	1 925.4
June	221.8	447.7	716.6	78.4	51.3	153.9	309.8	394.5	1 704.5
July	229.5	482.8	766.1	98.9	59.3	174.7	378.4	397.6	1 874.9
August	212.8	462.8	727.5	92.4	60.2	162.3	297.0	356.9	1 696.2
September	211.5	440.0	701.1	80.3	59.5	161.1	281.6	403.9	1 687.5
October	224.6	475.6	757.3	101.3	71.1	153.5	294.8	385.9	1 763.9
November	203.6	408.8	660.5	94.9	72.4	141.4	246.7	358.5	1 574.4
December	207.2	414.6	670.4	93.1	68.2	145.8	273.8	415.0	1 666.3
1997									
January	228.9	457.4	734.6	92.5	55.3	146.2	269.8	428.2	1 726.5
February	210.6	457.1	718.0	111.2	61.4	160.3	287.9	434.2	1 772.9

(a) Includes motor cycles and other motor vehicles.

(b) Includes alterations and additions.

(c) Includes boats, caravans and trailers, household goods, travel and holiday, and other purposes.

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PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Revolving Credit Facilities: **Original**

Month	NEW AND INCREASED CREDIT LIMITS			Cancellations and reductions	CREDIT LIMITS AT END OF MONTH.....	
	Secured	Unsecured	Total		Total available	Used
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996						
February	287.0	461.1	748.1	518.9	42 750.6	17 488.5
March	283.1	458.7	741.8	479.4	43 018.6	17 406.4
April	269.9	644.9	914.7	629.7	43 309.8	17 698.2
May	373.7	682.7	1 056.4	502.2	43 859.2	17 806.2
June	489.6	623.3	1 112.9	558.8	44 418.9	18 053.0
July	549.1	762.7	1 311.8	707.0	45 037.5	18 416.7
August	541.0	537.6	1 078.6	538.0	45 555.0	18 370.7
September	453.8	554.5	1 008.3	519.2	46 048.6	18 629.2
October	504.1	708.0	1 212.1	712.5	46 696.4	18 863.9
November	439.9	609.2	1 049.2	429.3	47 369.3	19 182.7
December	492.5	641.3	1 133.8	546.6	47 940.7	19 999.2
1997						
January	475.6	541.7	1 017.3	733.6	48 251.5	20 173.0
February	526.8	567.3	1 094.1	488.9	48 898.2	20 374.2

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COMMERCIAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Fixed Loan Facilities: **Original**

Month	Construction	Purchase of	Wholesale	Purchase of	Factoring	Refinancing	Other	Total	Commitments not drawn at end of month
	finance	real property	finance	plant and equipment					
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996									
February	452.8	1 675.4	317.4	564.5	93.8	839.2	1 021.0	4 964.1	5 631.6
March	875.4	1 731.5	664.9	690.3	170.5	949.0	910.9	5 992.6	5 580.7
April	581.1	1 571.0	400.6	570.5	108.2	778.5	603.1	4 613.1	5 631.1
May	902.1	1 713.2	405.3	639.9	108.6	1 193.6	1 248.2	6 210.9	6 557.7
June	451.3	1 733.3	498.6	756.6	88.7	1 516.6	2 655.4	7 700.5	6 808.5
July	553.9	1 730.0	535.6	743.3	185.9	1 635.5	1 577.4	6 961.5	6 607.8
August	808.2	1 644.3	320.8	665.1	131.6	1 061.8	924.2	5 555.9	6 282.0
September	626.2	1 647.2	325.7	698.8	106.3	819.1	1 271.6	5 494.9	6 170.5
October	584.3	1 752.6	354.2	691.0	110.9	1 130.9	801.2	5 425.0	6 375.0
November	473.9	1 939.1	326.1	675.6	180.3	865.7	1 235.8	5 696.5	6 149.9
December	656.7	2 004.2	294.8	732.8	99.4	1 244.9	1 710.8	6 743.6	5 863.2
1997									
January	469.8	1 884.2	377.0	514.9	116.1	856.9	964.4	5 183.3	5 522.3
February	481.7	1 991.1	423.8	641.2	107.6	731.5	758.0	5 134.9	5 429.4

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REVOLVING COMMERCIAL FINANCE AND LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS: **Original**

REVOLVING CREDIT FACILITIES.....

LEASE FINANCE FACILITIES

Month	New and increased credit limits	Cancellations and reductions	Total credit limits at end of month	Credit limits used at end of month	Total commitments	Commitments not drawn at end of month
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996						
February	5 506.5	4 917.3	161 961.1	104 882.9	595.3	456.5
March	5 998.0	5 308.7	162 343.5	105 950.7	672.8	468.2
April	7 216.3	5 579.9	163 792.2	105 769.4	581.7	447.9
May	6 674.9	5 013.8	163 801.1	107 985.5	741.6	464.3
June	6 841.2	4 535.1	165 806.6	108 458.9	914.1	475.0
July	7 595.6	5 077.7	173 865.5	111 484.4	755.2	455.3
August	5 502.1	3 566.2	175 586.1	111 884.5	637.4	443.9
September	5 350.3	4 374.3	175 683.2	112 521.6	578.5	447.2
October	6 100.7	4 198.8	177 642.9	113 136.4	598.4	449.0
November	6 195.7	4 571.8	177 824.2	112 294.3	566.8	406.7
December	6 203.2	4 689.1	180 152.4	110 184.1	633.0	324.2
1997						
January	6 740.8	5 164.9	180 856.9	109 454.9	558.8	332.9
February	5 768.5	3 331.8	182 913.2	108 038.2	580.7	441.3

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FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR HOUSING(a): Original

Month	SECURED, FOR OWNER OCCUPATION.....					UNSECURED, PERSONAL FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION.....		COMMERCIAL FINANCE.....			Total
	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of newly erected dwellings	Purchase of established dwellings under new finance	Refinancing for established dwellings	Alterations and additions	Purchase and construction of dwellings	Alterations and additions	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings for rent or resale by individuals	Purchase of dwellings for rent or resale by others	
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996											
February	523.8	190.7	2 390.8	778.9	309.3	25.3	38.1	204.2	749.9	231.5	5 442.4
March	570.1	196.1	2 491.1	801.9	327.7	27.5	38.7	237.7	779.5	262.8	5 733.3
April	493.4	193.9	2 150.4	666.0	276.8	27.6	35.8	220.5	666.4	270.3	5 001.2
May	529.4	194.2	2 522.7	809.7	316.2	22.7	39.4	407.4	787.9	218.7	5 848.4
June	479.2	155.1	2 129.5	756.5	297.0	20.2	31.1	193.8	752.5	274.9	5 089.9
July	543.4	204.9	2 437.7	1 040.1	336.4	25.7	33.6	254.0	812.7	225.0	5 913.5
August	512.2	197.7	2 257.1	1 087.5	304.4	27.6	32.6	481.8	782.7	192.0	5 875.7
September	495.1	207.7	2 262.2	1 079.2	267.5	26.7	32.8	258.6	907.9	189.4	5 727.1
October	561.4	212.3	2 491.9	832.5	272.9	29.1	42.0	237.6	938.8	268.0	5 886.8
November	512.4	226.5	2 522.1	719.6	229.7	30.1	42.3	248.9	1 034.6	286.3	5 852.5
December	477.9	190.5	2 474.4	711.2	212.9	27.8	40.6	206.2	1 064.4	253.8	5 659.4
1997											
January	473.7	203.6	2 335.3	745.7	219.1	20.2	35.1	219.8	1 070.6	282.3	5 605.4
February	570.0	214.9	2 469.2	777.3	233.3	24.4	37.0	269.6	1 156.9	250.8	6 003.4

(a) Includes commitments to refinance loans where the principal purpose is for alterations and/or additions to dwellings.

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FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES(a): Original

PERSONAL FINANCE.....

Month	New motor cars and station wagons	Used motor cars and station wagons	Motor cycles	Other motor vehicles	Total	Commercial finance	Lease finance	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996								
February	208.9	480.5	13.4	34.0	736.9	324.6	330.1	1 391.6
March	217.4	484.0	14.6	35.8	751.8	384.7	358.1	1 494.6
April	207.6	445.7	12.9	35.0	701.2	317.9	304.5	1 323.6
May	239.8	508.8	13.9	38.8	801.3	371.1	382.4	1 554.9
June	221.8	447.7	11.7	35.5	716.6	357.4	454.5	1 528.6
July	229.5	482.8	13.6	40.2	766.1	339.0	416.4	1 521.5
August	212.8	462.8	13.7	38.2	727.5	321.2	329.8	1 378.5
September	211.5	440.0	14.0	35.6	701.1	339.9	298.1	1 339.1
October	224.6	475.6	16.0	41.1	757.3	351.4	308.6	1 417.3
November	203.6	408.8	15.4	32.7	660.5	348.1	302.2	1 310.8
December	207.2	414.6	14.0	34.6	670.4	348.3	324.5	1 343.2
1997								
January	228.9	457.4	12.7	35.6	734.6	281.3	280.6	1 296.5
February	210.6	457.1	13.6	36.6	718.0	326.8	301.2	1 346.0

(a) Excludes revolving credit facilities.

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LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES: Original

Month	MOTOR CARS AND STATION WAGONS		LIGHT TRUCKS		HEAVY TRUCKS		Other motor vehicles	Total
	New	Used	New	Used	New	Used	\$m	\$m
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m		
1996								
February	174.6	65.2	25.2	8.2	18.2	15.2	23.6	330.1
March	197.1	63.8	26.7	12.7	28.9	14.5	14.3	358.1
April	168.0	53.4	23.3	7.6	22.2	10.8	19.4	304.5
May	206.7	70.5	34.9	9.9	26.2	15.0	19.2	382.4
June	248.7	72.1	43.7	12.1	41.2	18.8	17.9	454.5
July	240.6	73.2	36.4	11.0	26.8	14.1	14.3	416.4
August	178.3	61.4	25.8	9.0	24.6	16.2	14.5	329.8
September	156.7	51.3	25.7	7.8	26.3	13.5	16.8	298.1
October	172.6	52.0	24.9	9.3	19.5	14.2	16.1	308.6
November	168.7	54.9	22.6	8.1	25.8	10.7	11.3	302.2
December	181.7	52.8	28.2	8.3	25.6	11.2	16.7	324.5
1997								
January	148.2	58.6	22.8	7.7	21.3	8.2	13.8	280.6
February	167.6	57.1	26.5	8.7	19.9	8.9	12.5	301.2

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FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR PLANT AND EQUIPMENT(a): Original

COMMERCIAL FINANCE.....

Month	Transport	Other plant	Total	Lease	Total
	equipment(b)	and equipment		finance	
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996					
February	39.0	200.9	239.9	265.2	505.1
March	91.1	214.5	305.6	314.7	620.3
April	34.9	217.7	252.7	277.2	529.9
May	41.3	227.4	268.8	359.2	627.9
June	103.4	295.8	399.2	459.6	858.8
July	43.5	360.8	404.3	338.8	743.1
August	38.9	305.0	343.9	307.6	651.5
September	124.6	234.3	358.9	280.4	639.3
October	106.2	233.3	339.6	289.8	629.4
November	105.9	221.5	327.4	264.6	592.0
December	38.3	346.2	384.5	308.4	692.9
1997					
January	31.7	201.9	233.6	278.2	511.8
February	32.7	281.7	314.4	279.5	593.9

(a) Excludes revolving credit facilities.

(b) Excludes motor vehicles, see table 7.

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LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR PLANT AND EQUIPMENT: Original

Month	Transport	Construction	Agricultural	Manufact-	Electronic	Office	Shop and	Other	Total
	equipment(a)	and earthmoving	machinery	uring	data	machines	office	goods	
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996									
February	11.0	65.6	24.6	27.3	59.2	38.4	18.8	20.3	265.2
March	12.6	71.5	46.7	38.6	59.8	40.5	19.9	25.1	314.7
April	10.5	59.4	41.2	41.2	47.7	34.5	21.7	20.9	277.2
May	14.2	88.5	56.4	53.5	51.0	46.0	20.8	28.9	359.2
June	14.8	82.3	92.8	79.9	75.3	52.2	34.7	27.6	459.6
July	19.2	86.0	41.5	43.7	46.5	45.0	21.9	35.0	338.8
August	9.2	72.0	19.9	51.5	56.3	41.8	18.9	37.9	307.6
September	12.0	70.7	24.6	30.7	43.4	50.7	19.4	29.0	280.4
October	10.2	58.4	34.2	41.6	56.9	38.6	24.5	25.4	289.8
November	8.3	68.1	29.7	34.9	40.0	40.7	19.7	23.2	264.6
December	8.0	70.5	25.6	50.4	55.0	43.0	30.1	25.9	308.4
1997									
January	14.4	61.2	32.5	31.5	61.2	35.5	22.8	19.1	278.2
February	7.7	69.5	30.8	41.1	42.7	35.7	20.2	31.9	279.5

(a) Excludes motor vehicles, see tables 7 and 8.

Period	Fixed commercial	New and increased	Lease finance	Total
	finance	revolving credit limits		
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING				
1993-94	3 224.2	3 063.0	452.7	6 739.9
1994-95	3 341.4	3 294.8	441.3	7 077.5
1995-96	4 826.3	3 430.2	615.8	8 873.3
1996				
February	389.2	220.0	43.9	653.1
March	418.4	311.3	65.0	794.7
April	397.2	220.2	57.7	675.1
May	501.9	280.5	75.1	857.5
June	561.6	324.0	121.9	1 007.5
July	485.3	444.8	62.5	992.6
August	404.7	221.9	37.0	663.6
September	392.6	338.6	38.4	769.6
October	417.0	220.4	48.6	686.1
November	386.0	350.2	45.4	781.5
December	398.5	387.1	45.6	831.2
1997				
January	348.0	315.5	43.7	707.2
February	383.9	253.7	47.2	684.8
MINING				
1993-94	1 014.9	3 796.4	131.2	4 942.5
1994-95	1 321.3	3 937.1	159.2	5 417.6
1995-96	2 046.2	6 591.8	177.6	8 815.6
1996				
February	98.7	311.7	11.2	421.6
March	362.6	279.9	10.4	652.8
April	33.5	757.7	13.9	805.1
May	313.6	528.5	32.9	875.0
June	479.0	458.7	32.0	969.7
July	175.4	693.5	14.5	883.4
August	235.4	312.9	21.6	569.9
September	69.0	563.5	22.7	655.3
October	103.1	459.7	14.4	577.2
November	83.4	171.6	13.4	268.4
December	224.9	446.0	25.9	696.9
1997				
January	118.7	226.3	13.6	358.6
February	108.3	240.6	12.3	361.2
MANUFACTURING				
1993-94	3 498.9	8 091.7	668.0	12 258.6
1994-95	2 918.0	9 171.6	778.1	12 867.7
1995-96	4 234.9	13 147.4	854.6	18 236.9
1996				
February	260.1	815.4	58.5	1 134.0
March	305.5	859.8	71.6	1 236.9
April	252.3	1 044.0	60.5	1 356.8
May	555.8	1 138.0	80.4	1 774.2
June	376.6	1 281.4	101.8	1 759.7
July	342.6	1 532.3	80.8	1 955.7
August	468.0	1 059.7	78.5	1 606.2
September	203.7	602.4	65.5	871.6
October	432.1	773.3	67.9	1 273.3
November	413.1	632.3	66.3	1 111.8
December	283.0	565.4	66.1	914.6
1997				
January	287.6	737.7	62.2	1 087.5
February	245.2	620.7	66.1	932.1

Period	<i>Fixed commercial finance</i>	<i>New and increased revolving credit limits</i>	<i>Lease finance</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
..... CONSTRUCTION				
1993-94	3 513.2	4 800.9	463.8	8 777.9
1994-95	3 250.9	4 700.7	513.5	8 465.1
1995-96	4 268.0	4 738.6	833.9	10 398.5
1996				
February	318.1	321.8	71.8	711.8
March	573.2	604.3	80.1	1 257.7
April	252.2	302.9	71.4	626.6
May	562.3	541.0	83.8	1 187.2
June	534.2	636.7	106.1	1 277.0
July	462.5	531.8	102.2	1 096.6
August	651.2	365.4	83.7	1 100.4
September	420.1	654.0	79.4	1 153.5
October	398.0	614.9	71.1	1 084.0
November	415.3	450.1	81.0	946.5
December	579.9	325.5	80.4	985.8
1997				
January	369.6	439.0	75.3	883.9
February	370.1	419.0	79.4	868.5
..... WHOLESALE TRADE				
1993-94	3 584.5	2 856.0	287.2	6 727.7
1994-95	3 866.6	3 651.1	297.7	7 815.4
1995-96	4 810.3	4 124.9	325.3	9 260.5
1996				
February	368.4	203.2	26.3	598.0
March	492.1	197.8	28.0	717.9
April	476.6	765.7	26.5	1 268.8
May	564.1	317.4	31.7	913.2
June	672.2	288.9	34.8	995.9
July	510.5	264.1	33.3	807.9
August	418.4	314.1	27.2	759.6
September	408.7	252.2	18.9	679.9
October	439.4	325.4	20.8	785.6
November	432.7	348.9	25.2	806.7
December	431.5	461.9	22.6	915.9
1997				
January	397.3	468.8	26.9	893.0
February	437.6	450.3	19.9	907.8
..... RETAIL TRADE				
1993-94	3 767.8	2 978.7	958.6	7 705.1
1994-95	3 913.3	3 588.1	1 267.9	8 769.3
1995-96	4 501.6	3 690.4	1 128.5	9 320.5
1996				
February	282.7	292.0	85.0	659.8
March	288.5	361.8	93.6	743.8
April	283.5	391.4	76.5	751.4
May	400.4	297.2	102.4	800.0
June	471.0	443.0	136.0	1 050.0
July	440.8	386.0	127.6	954.4
August	500.9	316.9	80.6	898.4
September	356.6	234.4	69.7	660.7
October	363.4	627.4	87.4	1 078.1
November	358.7	256.7	78.7	692.2
December	358.0	425.8	76.3	860.0
1997				
January	318.2	177.2	69.8	565.2
February	285.8	280.7	67.0	633.5

Period	Fixed commercial	New and increased	Lease finance	Total
	finance	revolving credit limits		
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
.....				
TRANSPORT AND STORAGE				
1993-94	1 406.6	1 574.7	667.8	3 649.1
1994-95	1 799.7	2 013.9	714.9	4 528.5
1995-96	2 133.0	1 604.8	845.4	4 583.2
1996				
February	136.0	45.9	68.0	249.9
March	190.3	121.0	85.6	397.0
April	147.0	46.8	59.2	252.9
May	234.4	107.2	80.6	422.2
June	350.2	402.8	94.8	847.8
July	297.5	82.1	77.1	456.7
August	172.7	78.3	65.5	316.6
September	290.7	265.5	69.0	625.2
October	276.6	110.0	65.2	451.8
November	301.1	222.6	65.7	589.5
December	284.9	356.8	72.0	713.7
1997				
January	238.5	1 464.5	56.4	1 759.4
February	126.2	212.5	51.7	390.5
.....				
FINANCE AND INSURANCE				
1993-94	3 570.9	8 403.2	251.3	12 225.4
1994-95	3 685.3	9 719.1	268.5	13 672.9
1995-96	5 896.9	11 909.2	257.0	18 063.1
1996				
February	423.1	790.7	26.7	1 240.5
March	520.4	825.7	17.9	1 364.1
April	282.4	1 427.6	26.1	1 736.1
May	588.5	1 201.9	21.8	1 812.2
June	822.2	903.7	28.6	1 754.5
July	625.3	1 467.9	21.6	2 114.8
August	480.8	1 226.5	29.4	1 736.7
September	612.5	930.6	24.2	1 567.2
October	289.4	963.1	20.0	1 272.5
November	403.4	1 529.1	16.5	1 949.0
December	680.3	1 244.5	15.0	1 939.8
1997				
January	425.6	958.3	33.9	1 417.7
February	331.1	1 408.2	19.1	1 758.4
.....				
PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES				
1993-94	7 231.4	5 051.5	772.4	13 055.3
1994-95	7 942.8	5 463.2	846.6	14 252.6
1995-96	8 045.4	6 970.0	923.8	15 939.2
1996				
February	554.1	788.8	68.4	1 411.3
March	711.0	517.8	87.5	1 316.3
April	569.0	398.7	75.5	1 043.3
May	835.4	801.5	84.3	1 721.1
June	865.9	927.5	96.3	1 889.7
July	952.0	1 016.2	88.6	2 056.7
August	719.3	717.0	82.2	1 518.5
September	701.7	751.1	73.8	1 526.7
October	681.9	549.9	81.5	1 313.3
November	804.8	661.1	70.6	1 536.5
December	871.0	797.0	94.8	1 762.7
1997				
January	693.7	1 112.8	67.1	1 873.7
February	950.6	975.4	98.5	2 024.5

<i>Period</i>	<i>Fixed commercial finance \$m</i>	<i>New and increased revolving credit limits \$m</i>	<i>Lease finance \$m</i>	<i>Total \$m</i>
.....				
CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, PERSONAL AND OTHER SERVICES				
1993-94	2 252.8	1 774.0	303.0	4 329.8
1994-95	2 813.6	2 990.7	394.9	6 199.2
1995-96	3 439.8	3 121.6	348.3	6 909.7
1996				
February	321.8	146.4	30.4	498.6
March	347.4	277.3	25.0	649.7
April	236.3	522.3	22.3	780.9
May	249.7	595.3	29.3	874.3
June	311.7	216.4	33.6	561.6
July	306.0	214.7	29.8	550.6
August	266.6	121.4	25.4	413.4
September	240.5	142.4	24.1	407.0
October	239.5	322.1	22.6	584.2
November	345.6	273.7	23.0	642.3
December	346.2	264.7	30.4	641.4
1997				
January	362.8	189.5	27.7	580.0
February	283.2	341.7	26.7	651.5
.....				
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION				
1993-94	741.3	468.4	100.8	1 310.5
1994-95	582.5	457.7	78.0	1 118.2
1995-96	420.9	1 231.8	107.2	1 759.9
1996				
February	23.8	17.4	9.4	50.6
March	18.3	77.3	8.7	104.3
April	26.8	56.9	10.0	93.7
May	56.2	202.1	17.0	275.4
June	81.3	63.9	21.1	166.3
July	27.5	30.7	15.1	73.3
August	24.5	45.7	16.9	87.1
September	49.1	89.3	14.9	153.4
October	41.1	14.1	19.0	74.3
November	23.7	25.0	11.3	60.1
December	36.4	103.9	20.7	161.1
1997				
January	141.2	23.8	18.3	183.3
February	29.9	12.5	16.4	58.8
.....				
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
1993-94	909.5	884.8	372.4	2 166.7
1994-95	1 078.7	912.8	397.6	2 389.1
1995-96	1 584.1	1 167.5	376.1	3 127.7
1996				
February	113.3	86.2	33.5	233.0
March	129.1	109.9	33.5	272.5
April	137.6	85.0	26.8	249.4
May	197.1	133.1	33.1	363.3
June	210.1	86.2	38.0	334.3
July	236.8	97.6	28.8	363.2
August	144.7	87.2	29.8	261.7
September	129.3	72.8	27.4	229.6
October	137.9	90.1	30.0	258.0
November	133.9	103.4	26.1	263.4
December	141.3	100.5	30.3	272.2
1997				
January	148.3	97.5	22.7	268.6
February	150.2	558.0	24.8	230.8

<i>Period</i>	<i>Fixed commercial finance \$m</i>	<i>New and increased revolving credit limits \$m</i>	<i>Lease finance \$m</i>	<i>Total \$m</i>
OTHER INDUSTRIES				
1993-94	11 866.9	4 813.4	417.0	17 097.3
1994-95	14 005.5	3 911.0	414.3	18 330.8
1995-96	18 109.8	14 638.4	706.4	33 454.6
1996				
February	1 674.7	1 466.8	62.2	3 203.7
March	1 635.7	1 454.2	66.0	3 155.9
April	1 518.6	1 197.1	55.3	2 771.0
May	1 151.6	531.1	69.4	1 752.0
June	1 964.5	808.1	69.1	2 841.8
July	2 099.4	834.0	73.5	3 006.8
August	1 068.8	635.0	59.5	1 763.4
September	1 620.2	453.3	50.5	2 124.1
October	1 605.7	1 030.2	50.0	2 685.8
November	1 596.6	1 170.9	43.5	2 811.0
December	2 107.4	724.1	52.8	2 884.3
1997				
January	1 333.6	529.9	41.2	1 904.7
February	1 432.8	497.2	51.8	1 981.8
TOTAL				
1993-94	46 582.9	48 556.5	5 846.2	100 985.6
1994-95	50 519.6	53 811.8	6 572.4	110 903.8
1995-96	64 317.3	76 366.5	7 500.9	148 184.7
1996				
February	4 964.1	5 506.5	595.3	11 065.9
March	5 992.6	5 998.0	672.8	12 663.4
April	4 613.1	7 216.3	581.7	12 411.1
May	6 210.9	6 674.9	741.6	13 627.5
June	7 700.5	6 841.2	914.1	15 455.9
July	6 961.5	7 595.6	755.2	15 312.3
August	5 555.9	5 502.1	637.4	11 695.4
September	5 494.9	5 350.3	578.5	11 423.7
October	5 425.0	6 100.7	598.4	12 124.0
November	5 696.5	6 195.7	566.8	12 459.0
December	6 743.6	6 203.2	633.0	13 579.7
1997				
January	5 183.3	6 740.8	558.8	12 482.9
February	5 134.9	5 768.5	580.7	11 484.0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents summary statistics of lending commitments made by significant lenders to individuals, government, private and public enterprises and non-profit organisations.

SCOPE

2 Commitments made by the following types of lenders are included in these statistics:

- Banks;
- Permanent building societies;
- Credit unions/co-operative credit societies;
- Life or general insurance companies;
- General government enterprises;
- Organisations raising funds through the secondary mortgage market for approved home buyers under State government housing schemes;
- Superannuation funds;
- Other corporations registered under the *Financial Corporations Act 1974*; and
- Other providers of consumer finance registered with State credit tribunals, including mortgage managers.

COVERAGE

3 The statistics cover significant lenders only. Significant lenders account in aggregate for at least 95% of the Australian total and at least 90% of each State total of the value of commitments for secured housing finance for owner occupation, other personal finance, commercial finance and lease finance, each calculated separately.

4 An annual collection is conducted to maintain coverage of significant lenders. In addition, new lenders are included in the series as their level of lending becomes significant.

5 All banks qualify as significant lenders and are therefore covered by these statistics.

CATEGORIES OF LENDING FINANCE

6 *Secured housing finance for owner occupation* is secured finance to individuals for purchase or construction of dwellings for owner occupation, and for alterations and additions to existing owner-occupied dwellings. Refinancing, involving a change of lender, is also included.

7 *Personal finance* is finance provided to individuals for their personal, non-business, use. Both fixed loans and revolving credit finance are included; secured housing finance and loans for investment purposes are excluded.

8 *Commercial finance* is finance provided to individuals and corporations for business or investment purposes. Fixed loans, revolving credit and commercial hire purchase are included.

9 *Lease finance* includes finance and leverage leases. Operating lease finance data, though excluded, is available from the ABS on request.

CLASSIFICATION BY INDUSTRY

10 The Industry of Borrower used to classify commercial and lease finance commitments in Table 11 is based on Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) Division or combinations of ANZSIC Divisions.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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11 For more information, users are referred to *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 1993, ANZSIC, (1292.0)*.

REVISIONS

12 Revisions to previously published statistics are included as they occur.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

13 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation and 'trading day effects' (arising from the varying amounts of activity on different days of the week and the varying reporting practices of the lenders). Adjustment is also made for Easter which may affect the March and April estimates differently. Seasonal adjustment does not remove the effect of irregular or non-seasonal influences (for example, a change in interest rates) from the series.

14 There is some evidence that a change may be occurring in the seasonal and trading day patterns of the revolving credit component of commercial finance. In these circumstances especially, the trend estimate data provide the more reliable indicator of underlying movement in commitments.

TREND ESTIMATES

15 Smoothing seasonally adjusted series reduces the impact of the irregular component of the seasonally adjusted series and creates trend estimates. These trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to all months of the respective seasonally adjusted series except the last six months. Trend series are created for the last six months by applying surrogates of the Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. For further information, refer to *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series—Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview (1348.0)* or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on Canberra (06) 252 6345.

16 While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 15 enables trend estimates to be produced for the latest few months, it does result in revisions to the trend estimates as new data become available. Generally, revisions become smaller over time and, after three months, usually have a negligible impact on the series. Changes in the original data and re-estimation of seasonal factors may also lead to revisions to the trend.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

17 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *Building Activity Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements (8750.0)*
- *Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0)*
- *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (5625.0)*
- *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia: Preliminary (9301.0)*

18 Users may also wish to refer to the *Reserve Bank of Australia, Bulletin* for further information on the lending position of banks and other financial institutions.

UNPUBLISHED DATA

19 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS has other relevant unpublished data available. A charge may be made for providing unpublished data.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

20 Detailed data are also available from PC Ausstats, the ABS on-line time series data service.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

21 Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

G L O S S A R Y

Agricultural machinery and equipment	Includes tractors, tillage implements, seeding planting and fertilising equipment, agricultural mowers, harvesters, etc.
Alterations and additions	Comprise all structural and non-structural changes which are integral to the functional and structural design of a dwelling. Examples are garages, carports, pergolas, reroofing, recladding, etc. Alterations and additions do not include swimming pools, ongoing repairs, or maintenance and home improvements which do not involve building work.
Commitment	A lending commitment is a firm offer of finance. It either has been, or is normally expected to be, accepted. Commitments accepted and cancelled in the same month are included. Commitments to non-residents are excluded.
Construction and earth moving equipment	Includes concrete mixers and pumpers, dozers, graders, mobile cranes, crawler tractors, dumpers, road rollers, earth packers, scarifiers, rippers, etc.
Construction of dwellings	For secured housing finance, comprises commitments made to individuals to finance, by way of progress payments, the construction of owner-occupied dwellings.
Debt consolidation	For personal finance, comprises commitments whose principle purpose is to consolidate and pay out amounts owing by the borrower to third parties.
Dwelling	Is a place of residence such as a house, semi-detached house, flat, home unit, town house, terrace house, etc. which includes bathing and cooking facilities.
Electronic data processing equipment	Includes computers, computer peripherals, data entry devices, word processing machines, etc.
Established dwelling	Is a dwelling which has been completed for more than 12 months prior to the lodgement of a loan application, or which has been previously occupied.
Finance lease	A finance lease refers to the leasing or hiring of tangible assets under an agreement, other than a hire purchase agreement, which transfers from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the asset without transferring the legal ownership.
Fixed loan facilities	Fixed loan facilities generally involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a commitment for a fixed amount for a fixed period for a specific purpose;▪ a schedule of repayments over a fixed period; and▪ repayments which reduce the liability of the borrower but do not act to make further finance available.
Heavy trucks	Comprises all vehicles with a gross combination mass rating in excess of 3.5 tonnes, including prime movers registered without trailers.
Light trucks	Comprises vehicles constructed primarily for the carriage of goods which do not exceed 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass such as utilities, panel vans, trucks, cab-chassis, forward control vans and four-wheel drives used to carry goods.
Manufacturing equipment	Includes all plant and equipment used in the manufacture of goods except motor vehicles such as forklifts, work trucks and tractors.
Motor cars and station wagons	Includes cars, station wagons, four-wheel drive and forward control passenger vehicles with up to nine seats (including the driver).

GLOSSARY *continued*

Motor cycles	Includes two and three wheeled motor cycles and mopeds, scooters and motor cycles with side cars.
Newly erected dwelling	A new dwelling that has been completed within 12 months of the lodgement of a loan application, and the borrower will be the first occupant.
Office machines	Includes telephone systems (including PABX equipment), facsimile machines, cash registers, photocopiers, etc.
Purpose	The purpose of the loan is that specified by the borrower. Where possible multiple purpose loans are split and each component is reported in the appropriate purpose category; otherwise the whole loan is classified to the major purpose.
Refinancing	For personal and commercial finance, represents a commitment to refinance an existing loan. For secured housing finance, only those loans where the refinancing lender is not the original lender and the security is unchanged are included. The refinancing of a loan to fund a change of residence is treated as a new lending commitment.
Revolving credit facilities	Revolving credit facilities generally have the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a commitment for a credit or borrowing limit is given for a specific period after which the commitment is reviewed;▪ the extent of the borrowing used at any time during the period may be for any amount up to the authorised limit; and▪ repayments (other than of charges and interest) made during the period reduce the extent of the borrowing used and thereby increase the amount of unused credit available up to the authorised limit. Examples include credit cards, lines of credit and approved overdrafts.
Secured credit limits	Includes overdrafts, lines of credit, credit cards etc. backed by a mortgage or other assets owned by the borrower.
Secured housing finance	This comprises all secured commitments to individuals for the construction or purchase of dwellings for owner occupation, regardless of type of security. Commitments for housing that will be occupied by persons other than the owner(s) are excluded.
Significant lenders	Significant lenders are those lenders who, Australia wide during the calendar year 1995, committed funds of more than: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$25 million for Secured housing finance for owner-occupation; or▪ \$35 million for Personal finance; or▪ \$217 million for Commercial finance; or▪ \$21 million for Lease finance.
Total credit limits at end of period	Comprises total approved credit limits available at the end of the reference month. In principle, this can be derived by adding new and increased lending commitments during the period less cancellations and reductions of credit limits during the period to the balance of credit limits at the end of the previous period. In practice, however, revisions and other adjustments such as the transfer of an existing fixed credit facility to a revolving credit facility will mean that such a derivation is inexact.
Wholesale finance	Comprises finance for the purchase of goods by retailers and wholesalers.

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