

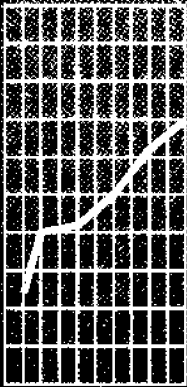


May 1997

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 21 JULY 1997

Lending Finance

Australia



NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
June 1997	18 August 1997
July 1997	17 September 1997
August 1997	16 October 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

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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 May 1997, the monthly trend estimate for the value of finance commitments for owner occupied dwellings rose slightly to \$4 381.6 million, the thirteenth consecutive rise and up 18.8% since the last trough in April 1996.

Seasonally adjusted, the value of commitments decreased by 8.1% to \$4 243.4 million.

PERSONAL FINANCE

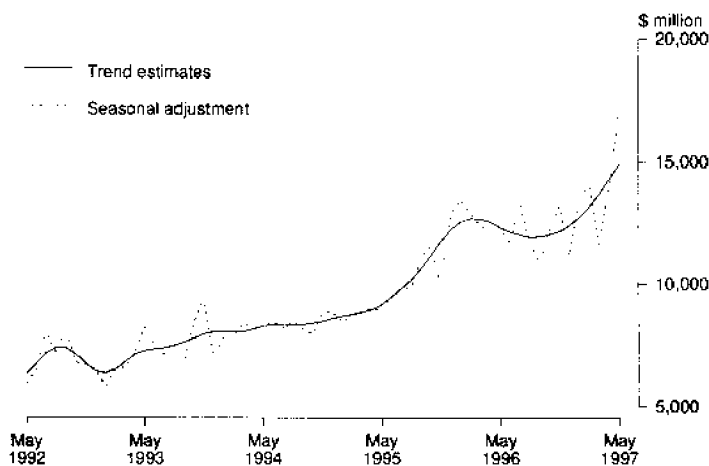
The trend estimate rose 1.1% to \$3 267.5 million in May 1997, the ninth consecutive monthly increase. The total increase was due to a 2.2% rise in revolving credit and a 0.3% rise in fixed loans. Commitments under fixed loan facilities have been rising from September 1996. Monthly commitments under revolving credit facilities have been rising steadily for 15 months and were 45.0% higher than for May 1996.

Seasonally adjusted, personal finance commitments were \$3 186.1 million in May 1997, a decrease of \$180.8 million (5.4%) on April 1997 but an increase of \$447.4 million (16.3%) on May 1996.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

The trend estimate rose 4.4% in May to \$14 946.4 million, the ninth consecutive monthly increase. Fixed lending commitments were 2.1% higher than in April 1997 and revolving credit commitments were 6.5% higher.

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



LEASE FINANCE

The trend estimate rose 0.6% in May 1997, the seventh consecutive monthly increase. The commitments of \$658.8 million recorded in May 1997 were 3.8% higher than the level recorded in May 1996.

Seasonally adjusted, lease finance commitments were \$621.9 million in May 1997, a decrease of \$95.6 million (13.3%) on April 1997 and a decrease of \$6.6 million (1.0%) on May 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									
May	4 056.0	316.2	1 925.4	1 056.4	2 981.8	6 210.9	6 674.9	12 885.8	704.4
June	3 520.3	297.0	1 704.5	1 112.9	2 817.4	7 700.5	6 841.2	14 541.7	875.3
July	4 226.1	336.4	1 874.9	1 311.8	3 186.7	6 961.5	7 595.6	14 557.1	704.6
August	4 054.6	304.4	1 696.2	1 078.6	2 774.8	5 555.9	5 502.1	11 058.0	590.7
September	4 044.2	267.5	1 687.5	1 008.3	2 695.8	5 494.9	5 350.3	10 845.1	534.3
October	4 098.2	272.9	1 763.9	1 212.1	2 976.0	5 425.0	6 100.7	11 525.7	561.5
November	3 980.5	229.7	1 569.4	1 049.2	2 618.6	5 696.5	6 195.7	11 892.2	530.4
December	3 854.0	212.9	1 659.8	1 133.8	2 793.5	6 743.4	6 203.2	12 946.6	595.1
1997									
January	3 758.3	219.1	1 725.1	1 017.3	2 742.3	5 183.1	6 740.8	11 923.9	520.8
February	4 030.5	233.3	1 780.1	1 097.4	2 877.5	5 086.0	5 825.1	10 911.1	541.4
March	4 231.9	241.7	1 748.4	1 203.7	2 952.1	6 376.7	5 139.6	11 516.3	547.7
April	4 746.3	263.5	1 891.0	1 384.5	3 275.5	6 478.5	7 532.6	14 011.1	674.0
May	4 585.6	233.2	1 820.2	1 433.3	3 253.4	7 530.6	8 566.7	16 097.3	653.4
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1996									
May	3 586.1	n.a.	1 766.7	972.1	2 738.7	5 665.0	6 608.5	12 273.4	628.5
June	3 501.7	n.a.	1 650.1	1 032.0	2 682.1	5 958.5	5 712.7	11 671.2	652.3
July	3 960.4	n.a.	1 618.5	1 088.7	2 707.2	6 208.9	7 122.1	13 330.9	596.3
August	4 020.5	n.a.	1 790.4	1 038.6	2 829.0	5 390.0	6 298.3	11 688.3	644.5
September	4 160.0	n.a.	1 797.4	1 011.1	2 808.5	5 767.8	5 097.7	10 865.5	580.4
October	3 968.9	n.a.	1 630.7	1 044.0	2 674.7	5 317.6	6 913.2	12 230.8	558.4
November	3 958.1	n.a.	1 658.5	1 083.6	2 742.1	6 506.5	6 678.3	13 184.8	557.6
December	4 167.1	n.a.	1 805.1	1 123.7	2 928.8	6 397.5	4 765.5	11 163.0	552.0
1997									
January	4 612.1	n.a.	1 817.8	1 251.8	3 069.5	6 458.0	7 169.7	13 627.7	710.4
February	4 128.9	n.a.	1 864.2	1 342.0	3 206.2	6 160.4	7 855.9	14 016.3	639.8
March	4 179.7	n.a.	1 700.5	1 325.0	3 025.5	6 247.1	5 345.5	11 592.5	580.9
April	4 618.3	n.a.	1 900.2	1 466.8	3 366.9	7 070.8	6 838.6	13 909.4	717.5
May	4 243.4	n.a.	1 828.2	1 357.9	3 186.1	7 408.2	9 746.1	17 154.2	621.9
TREND									
1996									
May	3 700.5	n.a.	1 765.6	981.8	2 747.4	5 781.7	6 535.6	12 317.3	634.5
June	3 749.9	n.a.	1 731.1	1 013.3	2 744.4	5 764.9	6 364.0	12 129.0	629.6
July	3 822.1	n.a.	1 706.4	1 033.4	2 739.9	5 740.5	6 284.2	12 024.8	616.5
August	3 914.7	n.a.	1 695.2	1 039.4	2 734.6	5 748.5	6 188.2	11 936.7	600.4
September	4 008.1	n.a.	1 701.8	1 043.2	2 744.9	5 804.9	6 138.0	11 942.9	587.7
October	4 082.7	n.a.	1 717.9	1 059.5	2 777.4	5 900.4	6 152.3	12 052.7	580.5
November	4 142.6	n.a.	1 738.1	1 099.4	2 837.5	6 014.9	6 174.8	12 189.7	583.8
December	4 193.4	n.a.	1 758.6	1 159.2	2 917.8	6 162.9	6 243.9	12 406.8	598.0
1997									
January	4 248.4	n.a.	1 779.9	1 229.9	3 009.8	6 326.4	6 422.0	12 748.4	616.9
February	4 302.2	n.a.	1 803.6	1 296.1	3 099.7	6 482.0	6 701.9	13 183.9	634.7
March	4 341.3	n.a.	1 822.5	1 350.9	3 173.3	6 650.9	7 062.9	13 713.8	647.0
April	4 368.9	n.a.	1 837.2	1 393.7	3 230.9	6 843.5	7 474.0	14 317.5	654.7
May	4 381.6	n.a.	1 843.6	1 424.0	3 267.5	6 986.5	7 959.9	14 946.4	658.8

(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									
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	353.5	1 569.4
December	207.1	414.5	670.1	92.8	68.2	145.7	273.8	409.1	1 659.8
1997									
January	228.9	457.1	734.2	92.2	55.3	146.2	269.8	427.4	1 725.1
February	210.5	456.9	717.5	110.9	61.2	160.0	288.1	442.3	1 780.1
March	208.0	417.2	671.5	106.8	60.3	171.4	310.6	427.7	1 748.4
April	237.1	453.2	739.8	114.0	68.1	179.1	346.3	443.7	1 891.0
May	220.1	437.7	713.1	115.2	65.8	177.0	334.5	414.7	1 820.2

(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						
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	546.5	47 940.8	19 999.4
1997						
January	475.6	541.7	1 017.3	733.6	48 251.7	20 173.3
February	526.4	571.0	1 097.4	488.2	48 868.4	20 364.0
March	634.8	568.9	1 203.7	678.8	49 391.8	20 461.6
April	731.2	653.3	1 384.5	762.9	49 650.5	20 388.8
May	760.5	672.7	1 433.3	511.1	49 993.5	20 606.3

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

Month	Construction finance	Purchase of real property	Wholesale finance	Purchase of plant and equipment	Factoring	Refinancing	Other	Total	Commitments not drawn at end of month
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996									
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	2 004.1	294.8	732.8	99.4	1 244.9	1 710.8	6 743.4	5 863.2
1997									
January	469.8	1 884.0	377.0	514.9	116.1	856.9	964.4	5 183.1	5 522.3
February	481.7	1 990.6	423.8	601.5	107.6	731.3	749.5	5 086.0	5 429.4
March	606.9	2 465.3	349.1	631.7	124.7	1 041.6	1 157.5	6 376.7	5 672.3
April	595.7	2 276.0	351.1	1 258.9	144.1	1 032.4	820.4	6 478.5	5 451.1
May	838.5	2 581.1	421.9	589.6	101.9	1 029.9	1 967.6	7 530.6	6 130.3

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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						
May	6 674.9	5 013.8	161 652.0	102 973.9	704.4	464.3
June	6 841.2	4 535.1	163 867.2	103 903.2	875.3	475.0
July	7 595.6	5 077.7	171 891.3	106 869.3	704.6	455.3
August	5 502.1	3 566.2	173 526.2	107 117.1	590.7	443.9
September	5 350.3	4 374.3	173 607.5	107 747.2	534.3	446.7
October	6 100.7	4 198.8	175 542.4	108 315.3	561.5	448.6
November	6 195.7	4 571.8	175 712.5	107 461.0	530.4	406.7
December	6 203.2	4 689.1	177 965.9	105 242.7	595.1	324.1
1997						
January	6 740.8	5 164.9	178 774.0	104 570.7	520.8	332.9
February	5 825.1	3 369.1	180 826.1	103 173.7	541.4	441.3
March	5 139.6	3 548.7	182 063.5	103 610.4	547.7	345.3
April	7 532.6	4 459.9	183 372.6	103 424.1	674.0	367.8
May	8 566.7	4 581.6	185 691.0	102 818.0	653.4	400.1

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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											
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	27.6	40.6	206.2	1 064.2	253.8	5 659.3
1997											
January	473.7	203.6	2 335.3	745.7	219.1	20.2	35.1	219.8	1 070.4	282.3	5 605.2
February	570.0	214.4	2 468.4	777.6	233.3	24.1	37.2	269.6	1 156.5	250.8	6 001.8
March	565.6	225.2	2 592.2	848.9	241.7	23.4	37.0	296.9	1 214.6	259.9	6 305.4
April	658.4	258.9	2 837.5	991.4	263.5	26.9	41.2	361.1	1 410.8	305.6	7 155.4
May	671.0	263.9	2 835.6	815.0	233.2	29.0	36.7	308.6	1 416.2	314.7	6 924.1

(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								
May	239.8	508.8	13.9	38.8	801.3	371.1	382.3	1 554.8
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	416.3	1 521.4
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	297.9	1 338.9
October	224.6	475.6	16.0	41.1	757.3	351.4	308.3	1 417.0
November	203.6	408.8	15.4	32.7	660.5	348.1	302.2	1 310.8
December	207.1	414.5	14.0	34.5	670.1	348.3	324.4	1 342.9
1997								
January	228.9	457.1	12.7	35.6	734.2	281.3	280.6	1 296.2
February	210.5	456.9	13.6	36.6	717.5	324.4	301.2	1 343.1
March	208.0	417.2	12.2	34.2	671.5	312.7	305.9	1 290.1
April	237.1	453.2	14.7	34.9	739.8	347.1	362.8	1 449.7
May	220.1	437.7	13.3	42.0	713.1	344.9	370.9	1 429.0

(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		
1996								
May	206.7	70.5	34.9	9.9	26.2	15.0	19.2	382.3
June	248.7	72.1	43.7	12.1	41.2	18.8	17.9	454.5
July	240.6	73.2	36.3	10.9	26.8	14.1	14.3	416.3
August	178.3	61.4	25.8	9.0	24.6	16.2	14.5	329.8
September	156.7	51.2	25.5	7.8	26.3	13.5	16.8	297.9
October	172.5	52.0	24.9	9.3	19.3	14.2	16.1	308.3
November	168.7	54.9	22.5	8.1	25.8	10.7	11.3	302.2
December	181.7	52.8	28.1	8.3	25.6	11.2	16.7	324.4
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
March	169.9	56.7	26.5	9.0	22.8	7.4	13.7	305.9
April	198.2	65.2	34.0	8.4	28.3	14.6	14.1	362.8
May	198.2	64.8	34.8	10.9	31.7	11.3	19.2	370.9

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FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR PLANT AND EQUIPMENT(a): Original

COMMERCIAL FINANCE.....

Month	Transport equipment(b)	Other plant and equipment	Total	Lease finance	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996					
May	41.3	227.4	268.8	322.1	590.8
June	103.4	295.8	399.2	420.8	819.9
July	43.5	360.8	404.3	288.3	692.6
August	38.9	305.0	343.9	260.9	604.8
September	124.6	234.3	358.9	236.5	595.4
October	106.2	233.3	339.6	253.2	592.7
November	105.9	221.5	327.4	228.3	555.7
December	38.3	346.2	384.5	270.7	655.1
1997					
January	31.7	201.9	233.6	240.2	473.8
February	32.7	244.5	277.2	240.2	517.4
March	35.8	283.3	319.0	241.7	560.8
April	100.8	811.0	911.7	311.2	1 222.9
May	43.7	201.0	244.7	282.5	527.2

(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 equipment(a)	Construction and earthmoving equipment	Agricultural machinery and equipment	Manufact- uring equipment	Electronic data processing equipment	Office machines	Shop and office furniture, fittings and equipment	Other goods	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996									
May	14.2	52.3	55.5	53.5	51.0	46.0	20.8	28.9	322.1
June	14.8	43.5	92.8	79.9	75.3	52.2	34.7	27.6	420.8
July	19.2	35.7	41.3	43.7	46.5	45.0	21.9	35.0	288.3
August	9.2	25.3	19.9	51.5	56.3	41.8	18.9	37.9	260.9
September	12.0	27.4	24.1	30.7	43.3	50.7	19.4	29.0	236.5
October	10.2	22.9	33.0	41.6	56.9	38.6	24.5	25.4	253.2
November	8.3	32.8	28.8	34.8	40.0	40.7	19.7	23.2	228.3
December	8.0	34.4	24.3	50.1	55.0	43.0	30.1	25.9	270.7
1997									
January	14.4	23.2	32.5	31.5	61.2	35.5	22.8	19.1	240.2
February	7.7	30.2	30.8	41.1	42.7	35.7	20.2	31.9	240.2
March	12.5	20.4	42.7	35.6	49.7	38.3	20.4	22.1	241.7
April	10.7	32.0	52.4	42.4	58.0	47.6	25.9	42.2	311.2
May	8.0	34.4	52.9	43.1	44.6	46.4	23.7	29.5	282.5

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

Period	Fixed commercial finance	New and increased revolving credit limits	Lease finance	Total
	\$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	615.6	8 872.1
1996				
May	501.9	280.5	74.1	856.5
June	561.6	324.0	121.9	1 007.5
July	485.3	444.8	62.2	992.3
August	404.7	221.9	37.0	663.6
September	392.6	338.6	37.6	768.8
October	417.0	220.4	47.2	684.6
November	386.0	350.2	44.3	780.4
December	398.5	387.1	44.0	829.6
1997				
January	348.0	315.5	43.7	707.2
February	383.9	253.7	47.2	684.8
March	481.5	403.8	60.4	945.7
April	521.1	278.2	74.8	874.0
May	460.1	356.8	79.3	896.2
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	6 063.8	177.6	8 287.6
1996				
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	107.2	240.6	12.3	360.1
March	258.7	259.1	9.2	526.9
April	90.3	1 136.7	16.6	1 243.6
May	219.1	267.5	12.2	498.8
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	13 063.4	854.6	18 152.9
1996				
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	66.0	914.5
1997				
January	287.6	737.7	62.2	1 087.5
February	242.7	620.7	66.1	929.6
March	313.1	578.0	63.0	954.1
April	296.8	702.7	71.7	1 071.2
May	390.1	886.0	69.3	1 345.4

Period	Fixed commercial	New and increased	Lease finance	Total
	finance	revolving credit limits		
	\$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	496.4	9 840.5
1996				
May	562.3	541.0	47.7	1 151.0
June	534.2	636.7	67.3	1 238.1
July	462.5	531.8	51.9	1 046.2
August	651.2	365.4	37.1	1 053.7
September	420.1	654.0	36.0	1 110.2
October	398.0	614.9	35.6	1 048.6
November	415.3	450.1	45.7	911.2
December	579.9	325.5	44.3	949.7
1997				
January	369.6	439.0	37.3	845.9
February	367.3	419.0	40.1	826.4
March	467.5	389.6	40.5	897.7
April	435.4	571.7	46.5	1 023.6
May	651.9	531.0	50.1	1 233.0
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				
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
March	426.4	174.9	20.5	621.7
April	434.3	236.1	23.7	694.0
May	462.7	356.0	29.3	848.0
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				
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	660.6
October	363.4	627.4	87.4	1 078.1
November	356.7	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
March	309.0	234.4	65.8	609.2
April	431.2	183.7	88.0	702.9
May	679.1	422.7	83.6	1 185.5

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	605.8	4 419.4
1995-96	2 133.0	1 604.8	790.5	4 528.3
1996				
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	124.0	138.7	51.7	314.3
March	180.7	441.5	57.8	680.0
April	214.0	366.3	62.2	642.6
May	267.5	1 080.4	71.4	1 419.3
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				
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	330.1	1 458.7	19.1	1 807.9
March	585.0	820.2	17.5	1 422.6
April	373.9	1 214.2	27.8	1 615.9
May	441.2	1 496.2	20.1	1 957.6
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	6 770.0	923.8	15 739.2
1996				
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	920.5	975.4	98.5	1 994.5
March	947.2	632.1	93.5	1 672.8
April	807.6	998.8	104.5	1 910.8
May	792.5	1 171.4	97.1	2 061.1

Period	Fixed commercial	New and increased	Lease finance	Total
	finance	revolving credit limits		
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m

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				
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	421.7	26.7	731.5
March	363.4	270.9	25.4	659.6
April	322.8	1 018.7	38.7	1 380.2
May	315.9	120.2	34.7	470.8

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				
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	29.8	12.5	16.4	58.7
March	81.9	79.0	15.1	175.9
April	39.9	47.1	17.7	104.7
May	81.4	356.5	14.3	452.2

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				
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	55.8	24.8	230.8
March	168.5	76.0	27.1	271.5
April	156.5	79.1	43.1	278.7
May	135.8	135.0	32.1	302.9

Period	Fixed commercial	New and increased	Lease finance	Total
	finance	revolving credit limits		
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
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	18 110.3	14 100.4	706.4	32 917.1
1996				
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	2 107.2	724.1	52.8	2 884.1
1997				
January	1 333.4	529.9	41.2	1 904.6
February	1 423.7	497.2	51.8	1 972.6
March	1 794.0	780.3	51.9	2 626.2
April	2 354.8	729.2	58.8	3 142.8
May	2 633.2	1 386.9	59.7	4 079.8
TOTAL				
1993-94	46 582.9	48 556.5	5 846.2	100 985.6
1994-95	50 519.6	53 811.8	6 463.3	110 903.8
1995-96	64 317.8	75 016.5	7 107.3	146 835.2
1996				
May	6 210.9	6 674.9	704.4	13 590.3
June	7 700.5	6 841.2	875.3	15 417.0
July	6 961.5	7 595.6	704.6	15 261.7
August	5 555.9	5 502.1	590.7	11 648.8
September	5 494.9	5 350.3	534.3	11 379.5
October	5 425.0	6 100.7	561.5	12 087.1
November	5 696.5	6 195.7	530.4	12 422.6
December	6 743.4	6 203.2	595.1	13 541.7
1997				
January	5 183.1	6 740.8	520.8	12 444.7
February	5 086.0	5 825.1	541.4	11 452.5
March	6 376.7	5 139.6	547.7	12 064.0
April	6 478.5	7 532.6	674.0	14 685.1
May	7 530.6	8 566.7	653.4	16 750.7

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.

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.

GLOSSARY

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).

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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Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics
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Recommended retail price: \$16.00



2567100005970

ISSN 1327-4376