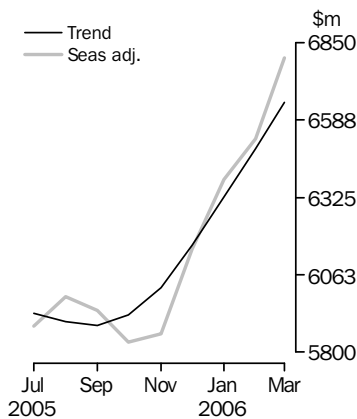


LENDING FINANCE

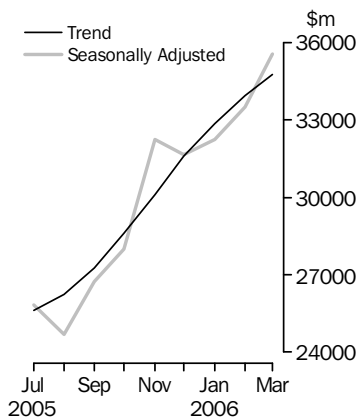
AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 16 MAY 2006

Personal finance



Commercial finance



INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Michael Abbondante on Canberra (02) 6252 6707.

KEY FIGURES

	Feb 2006 \$m	Mar 2006 \$m	Feb 2006 to Mar 2006 % change
TREND ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	13 007	13 054	0.4
Personal finance	6 492	6 647	2.4
Commercial finance	33 956	34 757	2.4
Lease finance	622	623	—
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	13 040	13 124	0.6
Personal finance	6 525	6 799	4.2
Commercial finance	33 496	35 545	6.1
Lease finance	561	561	0.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

KEY POINTS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

MARCH 2006 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 2006:

- The total value of owner-occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 0.6% (seasonally adjusted), while the trend series rose 0.4%.

PERSONAL FINANCE

MARCH 2006 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 2006:

- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total personal finance commitments rose by 4.2%. This increase was due to a rise in revolving credit commitments by 8.5% (see Notes p.2), partially offset by a fall in fixed lending commitments (down 1.3%).
- The trend series for the value of total personal finance commitments rose by 2.4% due to increases in both revolving credit commitments (up 3.5%) and fixed lending (up 0.9%).

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

MARCH 2006 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 2006:

- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose by 6.1%. This increase was due to increases in fixed lending commitments (up 11.7%), partially offset by a decrease in revolving credit commitments (down 4.2%).
- The trend series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose by 2.4%. Fixed lending commitments increased by 2.6%, while revolving credit rose by 1.8%.

LEASE FINANCE

MARCH 2006 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 2006:

- Lease finance commitments (seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.1%. The lease finance trend series recorded virtually no change.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
April 2006	9 June 2006
May 2006	12 July 2006
June 2006	11 August 2006
July 2006	11 September 2006
August 2006	13 October 2006
September 2006	13 November 2006

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The rise in *new and increased personal revolving credit limits* reported in this issue should be considered in conjunction with the increase in *cancellations and reductions in credit limits*. There are strong increases in both these estimates due to changed activity in a number of credit card products. The net change in total credit limits is relatively small. See Table 5.

ABBREVIATIONS

\$m	million dollars
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

CONTENTS

page

Additional tables on AusStats 4

ANALYSIS

Summary of findings 5

TABLES

1 Finance commitments, summary 7

2 Housing and personal finance commitments, by lender, original 8

3 Commercial and lease finance commitments, by lender, original 9

4 Personal finance commitments, by purpose (fixed loans), original 10

5 Personal finance commitments, revolving credit stocks and flows,
original 11

6 Commercial finance commitments, by purpose (fixed loans), original 12

7 Lease and commercial finance commitments, stocks and flows, original 12

8 Finance commitments for housing (owner occupation and
commercial) 13

9 Finance commitments for motor vehicles, original 14

10 Lease finance commitments for motor vehicles, original 15

11 Commercial and lease finance commitments for plant and equipment,
original 16

12 Lease finance commitments for plant and equipment, original 17

OTHER INFORMATION

Explanatory Notes 18

Glossary 21

ADDITIONAL TABLES ON AUSSTATS

TABLES AVAILABLE ON AUSSTATS

Additional tables are available from the AusStats service on <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> by selecting *Time Series Spreadsheets* and then *Finance*.

Tables available are:

- longer time series of tables in this publication
- the following tables
 - C1a. Commercial finance commitments (original, seasonally adjusted, trend)
 - C1b. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit
 - C1c. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by lender
 - C1d. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans by industry
 - C1e. Commercial finance commitments, revolving credit by industry
 - C2 to C9. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by state and territory
 - L1a. Lease finance commitments, summary (original, seasonally adjusted, trend)
 - L1b. Lease finance commitments by purpose
 - L1c. Lease finance commitments by purpose and lender
 - L1d. Lease finance commitments by industry
 - L2 to L9. Lease finance commitments by purpose and state and territory
 - OL1b. Operating lease finance commitments by purpose
 - OL1c. Operating lease finance commitments by lender
 - OL1d. Operating lease finance commitments by industry
 - OL2 to OL9. Operating lease finance commitments by purpose and state and territory
 - P1a. Personal finance commitments, summary (original, seasonally adjusted, trend)
 - P1b. Personal finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit
 - P1c. Personal finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by lender
 - P2 to P9. Personal finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by state and territory
 - 13 Lending Finance Seasonal Factors, By Purpose and Lender: Australia, January 1985 to March 2007.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

The total value of owner occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 0.6% (seasonally adjusted) in March 2006 compared with February 2006, while the trend series rose 0.4%

For further information, please refer to *Housing Finance, Australia* (cat. no. 5609.0).

PERSONAL FINANCE

In seasonally adjusted terms, the value of total personal finance commitments rose by 4.2% in March 2006 compared with February 2006. This increase was due to an increase in revolving credit commitments (up 8.5%), partially offset by a decrease in fixed lending commitments (down 1.3%).

The increase in new and increased credit limits was offset by an increase in cancellations and reductions, reflecting both increased competition in the credit card market and the initial phasing out of a key credit card product. New and increased credit limits (original series) increased by 34%, while there was a 41% increase in cancellations. The overall increase in the level of total revolving credit limits (original series) was \$1,980m (up 0.9%).

In trend terms, the value of total personal finance commitments rose by 2.4% in March 2006. The trend series for revolving credit commitments rose 3.5%, while fixed lending commitments increased by 0.9%.

In original terms, fixed lending commitments increased by \$390m (up 14.3%) in March 2006, with fixed loan refinancing up \$118m (19.9%).

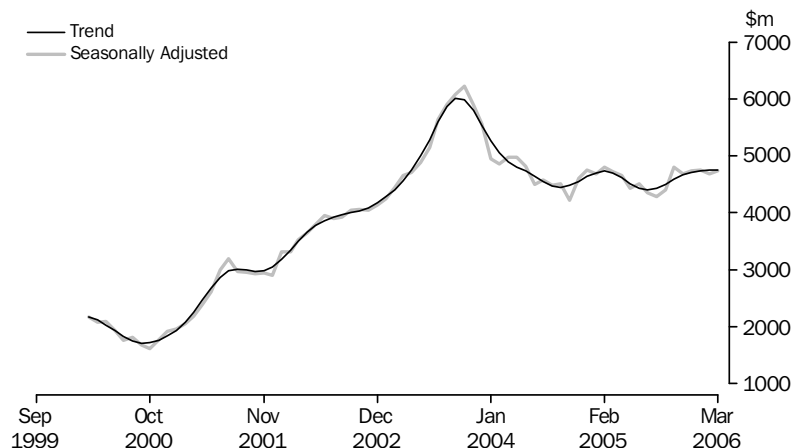
COMMERCIAL FINANCE

The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose by 6.1% in March 2006 compared to February 2006. The increase was due to an increase in fixed lending commitments (up 11.7%) more than offsetting a decrease in revolving credit commitments (down 4.2%).

The trend series for commercial finance commitments increased 2.4% in March 2006. There was an increase in fixed lending commitments (up 2.6%), while revolving credit commitments rose 1.8%.

The value of purchases of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale (seasonally adjusted) rose by 1.0% in March 2006, after a decrease of 1.3% in February 2006. The trend series fell by 0.1%, the first decrease after seven consecutive monthly increases.

PURCHASE OF DWELLINGS BY INDIVIDUALS FOR RENT OR RESALE



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LEASE FINANCE

The value of lease finance commitments (seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.1%. The trend series for lease finance commitments remained virtually unchanged.

FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Summary

Month	SECURED HOUSING(a)		PERSONAL(b)			COMMERCIAL			LEASE
	Construction and purchase of dwellings(c)	Alterations and additions	Fixed loans(c)	Revolving credit(d)	Total	Fixed loans(c)	Revolving credit(d)	Total	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2005									
March	12 196	519	2 811	3 508	6 320	15 210	9 888	25 098	503
April	11 624	484	2 573	3 117	5 690	16 403	5 898	22 301	508
May	12 444	517	2 810	3 272	6 081	18 936	8 721	27 656	534
June	12 320	508	2 783	3 965	6 748	20 129	13 359	33 488	661
July	11 752	463	2 500	3 586	6 085	18 511	8 437	26 948	553
August	12 808	452	2 725	3 578	6 303	16 361	9 402	25 763	554
September	12 939	462	2 687	3 374	6 061	17 459	9 063	26 523	582
October	12 249	444	2 521	3 026	5 547	17 480	9 647	27 126	501
November	13 793	480	2 798	3 390	6 188	22 405	10 359	32 764	515
December	12 784	437	2 747	3 414	6 161	23 527	13 744	37 271	613
2006									
January	10 236	366	2 488	2 942	5 429	15 488	7 675	23 163	639
February	11 927	432	2 723	3 162	5 884	17 660	10 087	27 747	473
March	14 581	539	3 112	4 237	7 349	24 963	10 877	35 840	605
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2005									
March	11 829	480	2 692	3 265	5 957	15 661	10 769	26 429	506
April	11 716	493	2 691	3 359	6 050	17 537	5 795	23 332	555
May	11 605	489	2 685	3 257	5 942	17 376	9 616	26 992	533
June	11 718	482	2 604	3 413	6 017	16 006	10 001	26 007	493
July	11 800	479	2 502	3 387	5 889	17 313	8 524	25 838	522
August	11 989	453	2 618	3 371	5 990	15 987	8 692	24 679	544
September	12 504	456	2 628	3 313	5 941	17 312	9 432	26 744	552
October	12 665	443	2 638	3 197	5 835	17 584	10 413	27 997	535
November	12 753	441	2 681	3 181	5 862	22 679	9 568	32 247	541
December	12 923	455	2 788	3 362	6 150	20 764	10 892	31 656	562
2006									
January	12 731	451	2 791	3 595	6 387	21 367	10 872	32 240	804
February	13 040	445	2 857	3 667	6 525	21 733	11 763	33 496	561
March	13 124	457	2 819	3 980	6 799	24 279	11 266	35 545	561
TREND									
2005									
March	11 661	481	2 682	3 362	6 044	16 643	8 804	25 446	528
April	11 698	486	2 656	3 352	6 007	16 682	8 834	25 516	527
May	11 720	486	2 633	3 352	5 985	16 629	8 822	25 451	525
June	11 780	481	2 611	3 349	5 960	16 557	8 865	25 421	525
July	11 913	472	2 593	3 337	5 931	16 653	8 984	25 636	522
August	12 113	463	2 592	3 312	5 904	17 056	9 192	26 249	525
September	12 345	454	2 613	3 279	5 892	17 785	9 478	27 263	538
October	12 558	449	2 655	3 271	5 926	18 793	9 804	28 597	559
November	12 720	447	2 705	3 315	6 020	19 926	10 186	30 112	583
December	12 837	448	2 751	3 411	6 162	20 968	10 623	31 592	603
2006									
January	12 929	449	2 791	3 537	6 327	21 874	10 989	32 863	616
February	13 007	451	2 822	3 670	6 492	22 666	11 289	33 956	622
March	13 054	452	2 848	3 799	6 647	23 259	11 498	34 757	623

(a) For owner occupation.

(b) Includes unsecured housing finance for owner occupation.

(c) Includes refinancing.

(d) New and increased credit limits during the month. Includes credit cards.

HOUSING AND PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, By Lender: **Original**

Month	HOUSING FINANCE(a)					PERSONAL FINANCE(b)				
	Banks	Permanent building societies	Wholesale lenders n.e.c.	Other lenders	Total	Banks	Credit co-operatives	Finance companies	Other lenders	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005										
March	9 539	425	1 602	630	12 196	4 962	294	291	773	6 320
April	9 197	321	1 484	622	11 624	4 472	269	271	677	5 690
May	9 798	316	1 696	633	12 444	4 735	284	302	760	6 081
June	9 556	284	1 870	611	12 320	5 100	256	307	1 085	6 748
July	9 175	286	1 697	594	11 752	4 772	246	266	802	6 085
August	9 975	303	1 921	609	12 808	5 073	253	306	671	6 303
September	10 113	291	1 903	633	12 939	4 681	265	275	839	6 061
October	9 646	292	1 709	602	12 249	4 340	243	268	696	5 547
November	10 962	324	1 874	634	13 793	4 944	270	291	682	6 188
December	10 239	269	1 660	615	12 784	4 756	273	274	857	6 161
2006										
January	8 212	259	1 252	514	10 236	4 050	234	271	874	5 429
February	9 399	320	1 552	655	11 927	4 702	242	277	664	5 884
March	11 404	409	1 958	809	14 581	6 124	291	283	652	7 349

(a) Secured finance for owner occupation. Excludes alterations and additions.

(b) Includes unsecured housing finance for owner occupation.

3

COMMERCIAL AND LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS, By Lender: Original

Month	COMMERCIAL FINANCE					LEASE FINANCE				
	Banks	Money market corporations	Finance companies	Other lenders	Total	Banks	General financiers	Finance companies	Other lessors	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005										
March	np	np	370	np	25 098	174	127	106	97	503
April	18 967	568	340	2 426	22 301	181	131	105	91	508
May	24 274	260	368	2 754	27 656	193	136	104	101	534
June	np	558	455	np	33 488	247	152	146	116	661
July	np	503	311	np	26 948	196	163	99	95	553
August	np	755	390	np	25 763	197	148	109	101	554
September	np	360	419	np	26 523	215	161	100	106	582
October	22 944	np	374	np	27 126	184	132	94	90	501
November	27 999	560	400	3 805	32 764	202	118	np	np	515
December	32 192	713	415	3 952	37 271	224	156	102	131	613
2006										
January	19 409	926	263	2 565	23 163	161	321	74	84	639
February	np	np	432	np	27 747	166	124	81	102	473
March	31 227	np	471	np	35 840	209	172	109	116	605

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

4

PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, By Purpose (Fixed Loans): Original

<i>Month</i>	<i>New motor cars and station wagons</i>	<i>Used motor cars and station wagons</i>	<i>Total motor vehicles(a)</i>	<i>Individual residential blocks of land</i>	<i>Unsecured finance for owner occupation(b)</i>	<i>Debt consolidation</i>	<i>Refinancing</i>	<i>Other(c)</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005									
March	315	468	840	345	45	331	543	707	2 811
April	286	453	797	348	38	306	462	621	2 573
May	312	477	848	386	37	316	548	675	2 810
June	323	476	859	379	34	328	508	676	2 783
July	288	442	786	318	32	296	446	622	2 500
August	318	521	906	370	34	267	491	658	2 725
September	301	472	839	365	35	281	488	678	2 687
October	277	417	760	352	31	274	482	623	2 521
November	310	433	822	390	42	311	548	685	2 798
December	291	388	749	366	37	276	594	724	2 747
2006									
January	293	417	777	305	33	268	527	578	2 488
February	288	419	781	363	40	284	592	662	2 723
March	304	456	840	428	46	331	710	757	3 112

(a) Includes motorcycles and other motor vehicles.

(b) Includes alterations and additions.

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

PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Revolving Credit Stocks and Flows: **Original**

Month	NEW AND INCREASED CREDIT LIMITS			CANCELLATIONS AND REDUCTIONS	CREDIT AT END OF MONTH	
	Secured	Unsecured	Total	Total	Total limits(a)	Credit used
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005						
March	1 842	1 666	3 508	1 704	200 588	96 678
April	1 709	1 409	3 117	1 573	202 141	97 496
May	1 772	1 500	3 272	1 628	203 756	98 276
June	2 188	1 777	3 965	1 741	206 499	100 784
July	1 779	1 807	3 586	2 425	207 902	101 069
August	1 778	1 800	3 578	2 034	209 455	100 942
September	1 677	1 697	3 374	1 555	211 187	101 449
October	1 487	1 539	3 026	1 433	212 766	102 244
November	1 610	1 780	3 390	1 743	214 518	103 410
December	1 636	1 778	3 414	1 547	213 337	101 759
2006						
January	1 266	1 676	2 942	1 383	214 911	101 910
February	1 434	1 727	3 162	1 621	216 464	103 361
March	1 865	2 372	4 237	2 286	218 444	104 162

(a) This figure sometimes reflects a rebasing of the data by one or more lenders without adjustment to earlier periods' commitments advanced or cancelled.

6

COMMERCIAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, By Purpose (Fixed Loans): Original

Month	Construction finance	Purchase of real property	Wholesale finance	Purchase of plant and equipment	Refinancing	Other	Total	Commitments not drawn at end of month
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005								
March	1 151	6 159	762	1 138	1 576	4 424	15 210	32 485
April	1 466	6 112	1 172	1 160	1 448	5 046	16 403	32 289
May	1 723	6 083	892	1 162	1 663	7 413	18 936	33 568
June	1 861	6 730	823	1 751	2 033	6 931	20 129	35 581
July	1 766	6 015	890	1 529	1 823	6 488	18 511	37 913
August	1 395	7 761	np	1 168	1 360	np	16 361	36 858
September	1 513	6 391	777	1 243	1 293	6 243	17 459	37 296
October	1 198	6 412	1 055	1 370	1 124	6 321	17 480	36 007
November	1 169	7 006	1 034	1 213	1 851	10 132	22 405	35 318
December	2 647	6 632	685	1 866	2 025	9 672	23 527	37 989
2006								
January	883	5 351	837	1 346	2 479	4 592	15 488	38 210
February	1 438	5 515	690	2 223	859	6 935	17 660	38 731
March	1 508	7 238	832	1 537	1 500	12 348	24 963	43 677

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

7

LEASE AND COMMERCIAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Stocks and Flows: Original

Month	LEASE FINANCE		COMMERCIAL REVOLVING CREDIT			
	Total commitments	Commitments not drawn at end of month	New and increased credit limits	Cancellations and reductions	Total credit limits at end of month	Credit used at end of month
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005						
March	503	np	9 888	5 599	258 329	128 536
April	508	np	5 898	8 379	255 058	130 750
May	534	np	8 721	5 224	258 589	132 144
June	661	608	13 359	6 939	264 539	134 031
July	553	np	8 437	7 117	265 859	135 147
August	554	626	9 402	7 773	269 242	137 769
September	582	680	9 063	7 034	271 237	139 488
October	501	np	9 647	12 121	268 783	138 374
November	515	644	10 359	5 865	273 319	143 367
December	613	608	13 744	6 882	281 053	145 295
2006						
January	639	643	7 675	6 860	281 778	147 265
February	473	653	10 087	5 572	286 256	153 350
March	605	674	10 877	6 548	290 701	155 060

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Housing (Owner Occupation and Commercial)

	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE)				OWNER OCCUPATION (UNSECURED FINANCE)	COMMERCIAL FINANCE(a)			ALL HOUSING FINANCE
	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of established dwellings	Alterations and additions	Total(b)	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2005									
March	993	520	10 683	519	45	539	4 884	424	18 606
April	954	496	10 174	484	38	570	4 638	360	17 714
May	1 064	573	10 807	517	37	593	4 752	436	18 778
June	1 057	535	10 728	508	34	920	5 009	462	19 253
July	990	565	10 198	463	32	502	4 294	524	17 566
August	1 076	589	11 143	452	34	546	4 601	408	18 849
September	1 016	598	11 326	462	35	593	4 544	416	18 990
October	931	592	10 727	444	31	593	4 645	408	18 371
November	997	649	12 147	480	42	453	4 989	388	20 146
December	954	671	11 159	437	37	808	4 670	457	19 193
2006									
January	800	494	8 943	366	33	366	3 711	356	15 067
February	913	639	10 375	432	40	611	4 188	390	17 588
March	1 081	775	12 725	539	46	898	5 249	459	21 772
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2005									
March	985	498	10 346	480	43	495	4 729	427	18 002
April	998	505	10 212	493	38	645	4 651	426	17 968
May	977	533	10 095	489	35	601	4 434	389	17 553
June	977	519	10 222	483	33	684	4 512	377	17 806
July	931	550	10 319	479	34	514	4 346	514	17 687
August	967	567	10 456	452	33	531	4 288	395	17 688
September	971	591	10 942	456	36	592	4 400	433	18 422
October	951	634	11 080	443	34	539	4 803	435	18 920
November	954	623	11 176	440	36	508	4 680	339	18 757
December	985	628	11 309	457	36	687	4 739	415	19 257
2006									
January	1 022	620	11 090	450	39	577	4 750	440	18 988
February	1 042	678	11 321	445	41	702	4 688	476	19 393
March	1 035	693	11 396	457	40	802	4 733	474	19 631
TREND									
2005									
March	985	497	10 179	481	40	582	4 702	453	17 919
April	984	507	10 206	486	38	593	4 619	435	17 868
May	979	519	10 222	486	36	600	4 515	425	17 781
June	970	534	10 276	481	35	595	4 435	422	17 749
July	962	553	10 398	472	34	579	4 402	422	17 822
August	955	573	10 585	463	34	562	4 426	421	18 018
September	955	591	10 799	454	34	549	4 497	417	18 297
October	962	608	10 989	449	35	552	4 587	411	18 592
November	975	622	11 123	447	36	574	4 665	410	18 854
December	991	635	11 211	448	37	610	4 717	417	19 067
2006									
January	1 008	649	11 272	449	39	650	4 742	432	19 241
February	1 024	662	11 321	451	40	691	4 753	450	19 391
March	1 038	674	11 342	452	41	729	4 748	464	19 487

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

(b) Includes alterations and additions.

FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Motor Vehicles: Original

Month	PERSONAL FINANCE(a)					COMMERCIAL FINANCE (a)	LEASE FINANCE	ALL VEHICLE FINANCE
	New motor cars and station wagons	Used motor cars and station wagons	Motorcycles	Other motor vehicles	Total	Total	Total	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005								
March	315	468	23	35	840	604	253	1 697
April	286	453	24	34	797	571	256	1 625
May	312	477	25	35	848	624	276	1 747
June	323	476	24	36	859	753	305	1 917
July	288	442	22	34	786	610	263	1 659
August	318	521	29	38	906	690	278	1 874
September	301	472	29	37	839	711	267	1 818
October	277	417	31	34	760	615	239	1 613
November	310	433	40	38	822	649	260	1 730
December	291	388	37	34	749	655	286	1 690
2006								
January	293	417	34	34	777	506	202	1 486
February	288	419	37	37	781	623	221	1 625
March	304	456	41	39	840	754	277	1 872

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Motor Vehicles: **Original**

<i>Month</i>	MOTOR CARS AND STATION WAGONS		LIGHT TRUCKS		HEAVY TRUCKS		OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES	ALL VEHICLES
	<i>New</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005								
March	175	37	14	5	12	3	6	253
April	173	38	13	5	16	3	7	256
May	178	41	24	5	11	3	13	276
June	189	45	27	10	17	6	10	305
July	177	39	12	11	8	5	10	263
August	182	44	14	11	11	4	11	278
September	179	39	12	9	13	5	9	267
October	154	39	10	7	19	4	6	239
November	168	38	12	8	17	4	12	260
December	197	42	14	11	11	6	5	286
2006								
January	135	33	8	6	11	4	5	202
February	139	38	13	7	11	4	9	221
March	185	45	14	8	15	4	7	277

COMMERCIAL AND LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Plant and Equipment: **Original**

Month	COMMERCIAL FINANCE(a)			LEASE FINANCE	ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FINANCE
	Transport equipment(b)	Other plant and equipment	Total	Total	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005					
March	88	445	534	251	784
April	86	503	589	252	841
May	98	439	538	259	796
June	131	866	997	356	1 353
July	92	826	919	290	1 208
August	83	395	478	276	755
September	136	396	532	315	847
October	73	682	756	262	1 018
November	79	485	564	255	819
December	253	959	1 211	327	1 538
2006					
January	152	688	840	437	1 277
February	72	1 528	1 600	252	1 852
March	161	622	783	328	1 110

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

(b) Excludes motor vehicles (see tables 9 and 10).

LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Plant and Equipment: **Original**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Transport equipment (a)</i>	<i>Construction and earthmoving equipment</i>	<i>Agricultural machinery and equipment</i>	<i>Manufacturing equipment</i>	<i>Electronic data processing equipment</i>	<i>Office machines</i>	<i>Shop and office furniture, fittings and equipment</i>	<i>Other goods</i>	Total
<i>Month</i>	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2005									
March	4	44	14	22	57	53	18	38	251
April	7	39	10	15	74	45	15	46	252
May	7	33	17	20	64	55	16	47	259
June	10	33	24	40	86	52	36	76	356
July	7	25	11	29	102	61	11	44	290
August	6	38	9	25	73	53	23	49	276
September	6	42	12	30	79	69	27	50	315
October	6	19	14	18	74	55	26	48	262
November	10	35	16	27	49	56	21	42	255
December	11	50	14	21	71	76	27	57	327
2006									
January	19	33	10	20	249	51	16	38	437
February	17	38	14	12	63	46	21	41	252
March	10	68	13	17	85	60	23	53	328

(a) Excludes motor vehicles (see tables 9 and 10).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication presents statistics of finance commitments made by significant lenders for the purposes of secured housing finance for owner occupation, other personal finance, commercial finance and lease finance.
- 2** *Secured housing finance for owner occupation* is secured finance to individuals for the 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, while refinancing with the same lender is excluded from all estimates.
- 3** *Personal finance*, other than secured housing finance for owner occupation, is finance provided to individuals for their personal, non-business, use. Both fixed loans and revolving credit finance are included.
- 4** *Commercial finance* is finance provided to individuals and corporations for business or investment purposes, including for the construction or purchase of dwellings for rental or resale. Fixed loans, revolving credit and commercial hire purchase are included.
- 5** *Lease finance* includes finance and leverage leases. Operating lease finance statistics are provided as spreadsheets on AusStats.

SCOPE

- 6** Finance commitments made by the following types of lenders are included:
 - Banks
 - Permanent building societies
 - Credit unions/cooperative credit societies
 - Life or general insurance companies
 - General government enterprises
 - Superannuation funds
 - Securitiser of mortgage assets (wholesale lenders) which provide funds to borrowers through a retail intermediary (e.g. mortgage originators)
 - Other Registered Financial Corporations. (RFCs).

COVERAGE

- 7** The statistics cover all bank commitments, and all commitments for secured housing finance for owner occupation made by permanent building societies. Of the remaining commitments, the largest lenders for each of secured housing finance for owner occupation, other personal finance, commercial finance and lease finance are covered, so that when calculated separately for each of the four broad categories of purpose finance, at least 95% of Australia-wide finance commitments and at least 90% of each state's finance commitments are covered. While many lenders other than banks are not covered, at least 70% coverage is maintained for all published lender types (including the Other Lenders series and Other Lessors series).
- 8** An annual collection is conducted to maintain and update the survey coverage. New lenders are included as their lending for any of the four categories of finance becomes sufficiently large.
- 9** From June 2001, the statistics for:
 - secured housing finance for owner occupation cover all commitments by banks and permanent building societies, and commitments by all other lenders which provided more than \$50m for housing finance in 2000
 - personal finance cover all commitments by banks, and commitments by all other lenders which provided more than \$96m for personal finance in 2000.
- 10** From June 2002, the statistics for:
 - commercial finance cover all commitments by banks, and commitments by all other lenders which provided more than \$484m for commercial finance in 2001
 - lease finance cover all commitments by banks, and commitments by all other lenders which provided funds of more than \$31m for lease finance in 2001.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COVERAGE *continued*

11 Additional smaller lenders are also covered where it is necessary to maintain collection coverage (as specified in paragraph 7).

SOURCES

12 For banks, credit cooperatives, building societies and RFCs, the statistics in this publication are currently derived from returns submitted to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA). The Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001 facilitates the collection of statistical data from the financial sector, with APRA established as the central point for collection of both prudential and statistical data. In October 2001, APRA implemented new reporting forms for building societies and credit cooperatives. New reporting forms were implemented for banks in March 2002, and for RFCs in March 2003. APRA commenced collecting loan commitments data from banks, credit cooperatives, building societies in July 2002 and from RFCs in March 2003.

13 Secured housing finance commitments for owner-occupied housing from banks, building societies and credit cooperatives are derived from form ARF 392.0 Housing Finance collected by APRA. Personal finance commitments from these lenders are sourced from the ARF 394.0 Personal Finance. Commercial finance commitments from these lenders are sourced from the ARF 391.0 Commercial Finance and from the ARF 394.0 Personal Finance for fixed loans for personal investment purposes. Lease finance commitments are sourced from the ARF 393.0 Lease Finance.

14 Finance commitments for RFCs are collected on the RRF 391.0 Commercial Finance (commercial finance commitments), RRF 392.0 Housing Finance (secured housing finance commitments for owner-occupied housing), RRF 393.0 Lease Finance (lease finance commitments) and RRF 394.0 Personal Finance (personal finance commitments and commercial finance commitments).

15 Electronic versions of the forms and instructions for ADIs are available on the APRA web site at <http://www.apra.gov.au/Statistics/Revised-Authorised-Deposit-taking-Institution-ADI-reporting-requirements.cfm>. For RFCs, these are available at: <http://www.apra.gov.au/rfc/>.

16 All other institutions, including securitisation vehicles, are collected directly by the ABS.

REVISIONS

17 Revisions to previously published statistics are included in the publication as they occur.

18 Changes in the classification of lenders (e.g. the conversion of a permanent building society to a bank) are reflected in the Lender series from the month of the change. Data for earlier periods for such lenders are not reclassified. Details of the establishment of new banks are published in the Reserve Bank of Australia's monthly *Bulletin* in the section on Technical Notes to Tables.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

19 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation and 'trading day effects'. A 'trading day effect' reflects the varying amounts of activity on different days of the week and the different number of days of the week in any month (i.e. the number of Sundays, Mondays, etc.). This effect may be partly caused by the reporting practices of the lenders. Adjustment is also made for Easter which may affect the March and April estimates differently. Trading day effects are removed from the original estimates prior to the seasonal adjustment process. Seasonal adjustment does not remove the effect of irregular or non-seasonal influences (e.g. a change in interest rates) from the seasonally adjusted series.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

continued

20 The lending finance series uses a concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology to derive the seasonal adjustment factors. This means that original estimates available at the current reference month are used to estimate seasonal factors for the current and previous months. As a result of this methodology, the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for earlier periods can be revised each month. However, in most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the previous month and the same month a year ago.

TREND ESTIMATES

21 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 but the last six months of the respective seasonally adjusted series. 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 *Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series—Monitoring Trends: An Overview* (cat. no. 1349.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on Canberra (02) 6252 6345 or by email at <timeseries@abs.gov.au>.

22 While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 16 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.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

23 Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Percentage changes in this publication have been derived from unrounded data.

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

24 Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication and more detailed series can be purchased in spreadsheet format from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) web site. For more information, contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

25 Users may also wish to refer to the following ABS releases:

- *Housing Finance, Australia* (cat. no. 5609.0)
- *Assets and Liabilities of Australian Securitizers* (cat. no. 5232.0.0.55.001)
- *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0)
- *Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary* (cat. no. 8750.0) - issued monthly
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 5625.0)
- *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia Electronic Publication* (cat. no. 9314.0).

26 In addition, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) produces the monthly *Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin*, the tables of which are available on the RBA web site <<http://www.rba.gov.au>>. The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) also publishes a range of finance statistics on its web site <<http://www.apra.gov.au>>.

27 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The *Catalogue* is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

GLOSSARY

Agricultural machinery and equipment	Includes tractors, tillage implements, seeding, planting and fertilising equipment, agricultural mowers, harvesters, etc.
Alterations and additions	Comprises 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	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	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 single self-contained place of residence such as a detached or semidetached house, a terrace house, a flat, home unit, town 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 that has been completed for 12 months or more prior to the lodgement of a loan application, or has been previously occupied.
Finance lease	Refers to the leasing or hiring of tangible assets under an agreement, other than a hire purchase agreement, which substantially transfers from the lessor to the lessee all the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the asset without transferring the legal ownership.
Fixed loans	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■ 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).
Motorcycles	Includes two and three wheeled motorcycles and mopeds, scooters and motorcycles with side cars.
New dwelling	Is a 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.

GLOSSARY *continued*

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	Generally has 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■ 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	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.
Total credit limits at end of month	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 month less cancellations and reductions of credit limits during the month to the balance of credit limits at the end of the previous month. In practice, however, revisions and other adjustments (such as the transfer of an existing fixed 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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