

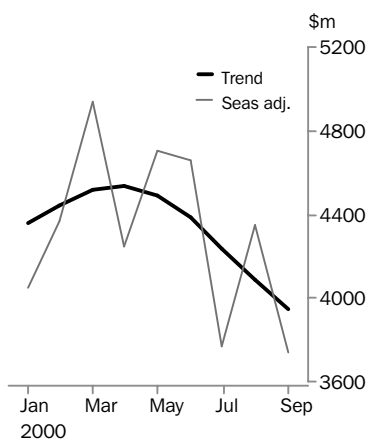


LENDING FINANCE

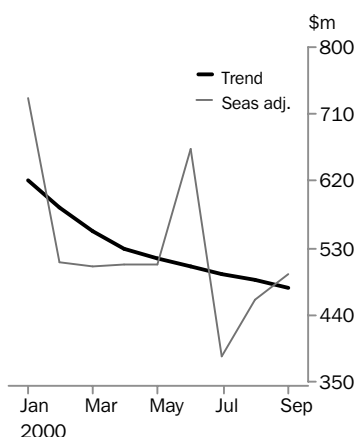
AUSTRALIA

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Personal finance



Lease finance



SEPTEMBER KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES	Aug 2000 \$m	Sep 2000 \$m	% change Aug 2000 to Sep 2000
Housing finance for owner occupation	5 365	5 334	-0.6
Personal finance	4 090	3 944	-3.6
Commercial finance	16 175	16 191	0.1
Lease finance	487	475	-2.4

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Aug 2000 \$m	Sep 2000 \$m	% change Aug 2000 to Sep 2000
Housing finance for owner occupation	5 668	5 286	-6.7
Personal finance	4 350	3 736	-14.1
Commercial finance	16 125	15 369	-4.7
Lease finance	460	496	7.9

SEPTEMBER KEY POINTS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

- The value of housing finance commitments, seasonally adjusted, fell 6.7% in September 2000, following an increase of 6.1% last month. The trend series continues to fall, down 0.6% in September.

PERSONAL FINANCE

- Total personal finance commitments to individuals (seasonally adjusted), fell 14.1% in September 2000, more than offsetting last month's increase of 15.3%. In seasonally adjusted terms, revolving credit commitments to individuals fell 19.5% in September 2000, and personal fixed lending commitments fell 7.7%.
- The trend series for total personal finance continues its decline, down 3.6% in September 2000.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

- The trend for commercial finance commitments remained steady, rising only 0.1% to \$16 191 million in September 2000. Fixed lending commitments fell 0.6% in September, while revolving credit commitments rose slightly, up 0.8%.

LEASE FINANCE

- The seasonally adjusted series for lease finance rose 7.9% in September 2000 to \$496 million, following last month's increase. The trend series continues its decline, decreasing by 2.4% in September 2000.

For further information about these and related statistics, contact Stuart Veitch on Sydney 02 9268 4317, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
October 2000	12 December 2000
November 2000	19 January 2001
December 2000	14 February 2001
January 2001	14 March 2001
February 2001	11 April 2001
March 2001	16 May 2001



FORTHCOMING CHANGES

For the next issue a number of changes will be introduced.

New seasonal factors from the annual seasonal re-analysis will result in revisions in all seasonally adjusted and trend series.

The Mortgage Managers series will be re-named the Wholesale Lenders series to reflect the new reporting unit to be used, and improved coverage will result in major revisions to related series from July 2000. Detailed documentation of this change can be obtained from Stuart Veitch, email stuart.veitch@abs.gov.au, or phone (02) 9268 4317.



Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

The value for housing finance commitments, in seasonally adjusted terms, decreased by 6.7% in September 2000 to \$5 286 million, offsetting last month's increase. The trend series continued to decline with a fall of 0.6% in September 2000.

For further information refer to *Housing Finance For Owner Occupation, Australia* (Cat. no. 5609.0)

PERSONAL FINANCE

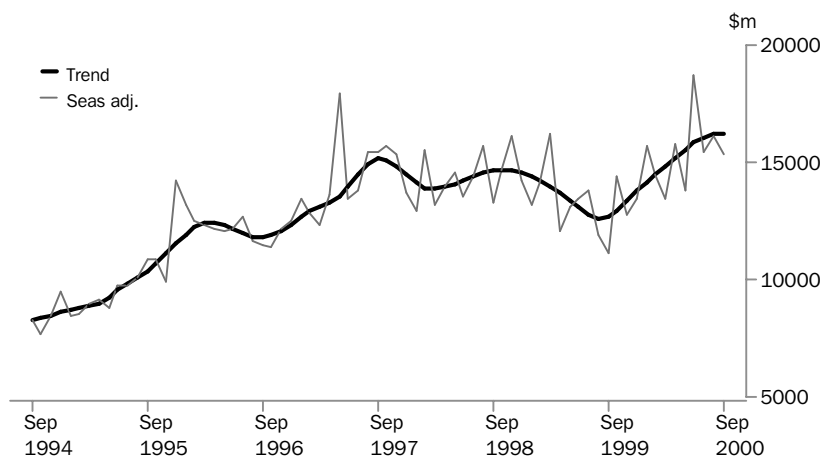
Total personal finance commitments fell 14.1% in seasonally adjusted terms for September 2000, down \$614 million to \$3 736 million. The overall decrease resulted from significant falls in both fixed lending commitments (down 7.7%) and revolving credit commitments (down 19.5%). Total fixed lending commitments, in original terms, fell \$290 million, primarily due to a decrease in the series for Total Motor Vehicles (down \$214 million to \$815 million).

The revised trend series for revolving credit commitments continued its decline, decreasing 6.9% in September 2000, while fixed lending commitments remain steady. The trend series for total personal finance fell 3.6% in September 2000.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

The total trend series for commercial finance commitments remained steady at \$16 191 million in September 2000. The fixed lending commitments trend series fell 0.6% in September 2000, continuing its decrease since January 2000. Revolving credit commitments trend was up 0.8% in September 2000.

A re-basing by one lender of its Commercial Finance total (revolving) credit limits at end of month (Table 7) was made without adjustment to earlier periods' new credit limits or cancellations. The re-basing was also primarily responsible for the large increase in Commercial Finance credit used (Table 7).



LEASE FINANCE

The seasonally adjusted series for lease finance commitments continued to rise in September 2000, up 7.9% (to \$496 million), the second successive increase from a seven year low. The trend series continues to decline, down 2.4% in September 2000, the sixteenth successive month of decline.

FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Summary

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									
1999									
September	6 340	283	1 799	2 492	4 291	7 120	4 412	11 532	785
October	6 591	375	1 784	2 295	4 079	8 070	5 332	13 402	619
November	7 186	292	1 886	2 601	4 486	7 335	5 482	12 817	650
December	6 591	264	1 819	2 477	4 295	8 046	6 975	15 022	746
2000									
January	5 174	213	1 640	1 729	3 369	7 482	4 581	12 063	491
February	6 663	284	1 995	2 100	4 096	7 965	4 987	12 951	470
March	6 946	306	2 129	3 043	5 171	7 520	6 628	14 148	548
April	5 250	223	1 602	2 321	3 924	6 483	7 610	14 093	431
May	6 644	311	2 076	2 950	5 026	7 836	7 226	15 062	545
June	5 600	264	2 075	2 870	4 945	13 270	8 736	22 006	999
July	5 256	226	1 617	2 414	4 031	8 030	8 040	16 070	403
August	6 016	243	2 046	2 609	4 655	7 862	9 018	16 880	470
September	5 149	222	1 756	1 827	3 583	7 476	7 354	14 831	457
Seasonally Adjusted									
1999									
September	6 075	n.a.	1 780	2 420	4 200	6 662	4 454	11 116	797
October	7 024	n.a.	1 927	2 145	4 072	8 672	5 742	14 414	702
November	6 912	n.a.	1 886	2 594	4 480	7 574	5 200	12 774	684
December	6 623	n.a.	1 837	2 404	4 241	6 881	6 552	13 433	681
2000									
January	6 529	n.a.	1 810	2 235	4 045	10 363	5 347	15 710	731
February	6 795	n.a.	1 931	2 437	4 368	9 264	5 229	14 493	510
March	5 971	n.a.	1 862	3 072	4 934	6 936	6 481	13 417	505
April	5 885	n.a.	1 808	2 437	4 245	7 876	7 894	15 770	508
May	6 044	n.a.	1 922	2 784	4 706	7 079	6 683	13 762	507
June	5 189	n.a.	1 901	2 757	4 658	10 387	8 298	18 685	664
July	5 340	n.a.	1 670	2 102	3 772	7 649	7 803	15 452	385
August	5 668	n.a.	1 996	2 354	4 350	7 647	8 478	16 125	460
September	5 286	n.a.	1 842	1 894	3 736	7 442	7 927	15 369	496
Trend									
1999									
September	6 369	n.a.	1 814	2 277	4 091	7 106	5 568	12 674	762
October	6 583	n.a.	1 841	2 320	4 161	7 543	5 426	12 969	739
November	6 721	n.a.	1 860	2 368	4 228	8 009	5 372	13 381	710
December	6 752	n.a.	1 867	2 418	4 285	8 317	5 488	13 805	668
2000									
January	6 660	n.a.	1 871	2 488	4 359	8 425	5 750	14 175	622
February	6 458	n.a.	1 868	2 571	4 439	8 389	6 092	14 481	583
March	6 204	n.a.	1 863	2 651	4 514	8 312	6 478	14 790	553
April	5 957	n.a.	1 860	2 677	4 537	8 231	6 928	15 159	530
May	5 752	n.a.	1 858	2 634	4 492	8 158	7 380	15 538	515
June	5 584	n.a.	1 855	2 527	4 382	8 095	7 752	15 847	506
July	5 459	n.a.	1 854	2 384	4 238	8 054	8 012	16 066	496
August	5 365	n.a.	1 855	2 235	4 090	7 982	8 193	16 175	487
September	5 334	n.a.	1 863	2 081	3 944	7 935	8 256	16 191	475

(a) For owner occupation.

(c) See Explanatory Note 10 on page 11 for further information on the seasonally adjusted data for this series.

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

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HOUSING AND PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, By Type of Lender: Original

Month	HOUSING FINANCE(a).....					PERSONAL FINANCE.....				
	All banks	Permanent building societies	Mortgage managers	Other lenders	Total	All banks	Credit co-operatives	Finance companies	Other lenders	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1999										
July	4 951	199	495	249	5 894	3 036	257	575	161	4 029
August	5 064	222	543	244	6 073	3 138	254	576	144	4 112
September	5 253	234	597	255	6 340	3 284	266	554	187	4 291
October	5 581	214	554	242	6 591	3 132	255	537	154	4 079
November	5 982	231	695	279	7 186	3 435	272	589	190	4 486
December	5 584	189	554	264	6 591	3 253	271	585	187	4 295
2000										
January	4 372	133	441	228	5 174	2 544	221	487	116	3 369
February	5 655	208	526	275	6 663	3 087	263	582	163	4 096
March	5 825	225	587	309	6 946	4 100	302	633	137	5 171
April	4 365	156	492	237	5 250	3 110	227	473	113	3 924
May	5 618	174	573	279	6 644	3 964	292	633	138	5 026
June	4 629	162	551	258	5 600	3 783	277	683	201	4 945
July	4 324	176	515	241	5 256	3 135	231	495	170	4 031
August	4 930	182	605	298	6 016	3 505	249	691	210	4 655
September	4 229	165	506	249	5 149	2 652	241	523	167	3 583

(a) Excludes alterations and additions.

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COMMERCIAL AND LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS, By Type of Lender: Original

Month	COMMERCIAL FINANCE.....					LEASE FINANCE.....				
	All banks	Money market corporations	Finance companies	Other lenders	Total	All banks	General financiers	Finance companies	Other lessors(a)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1999										
July	12 560	1 134	268	618	14 580	305	138	344	66	852
August	9 777	514	354	602	11 247	258	125	302	78	764
September	10 150	480	367	536	11 532	293	113	283	96	785
October	11 245	1 205	352	599	13 402	229	117	219	54	619
November	11 417	358	360	681	12 817	255	114	223	58	650
December	13 101	914	404	603	15 022	309	181	202	53	746
2000										
January	10 614	640	260	549	12 063	177	132	145	38	491
February	11 198	742	347	665	12 951	227	76	125	41	470
March	11 684	1 356	399	710	14 148	238	94	146	70	548
April	10 237	2 948	305	603	14 093	168	100	115	47	431
May	13 616	451	424	570	15 062	198	94	197	56	545
June	18 531	1 582	713	1 180	22 006	477	188	249	85	999
July	14 214	691	321	844	16 070	123	103	112	65	403
August	14 152	1 468	504	756	16 880	168	90	137	75	470
September	11 912	1 613	552	754	14 831	156	115	121	66	457

(a) Includes money market corporations.

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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
1999									
July	287	478	821	117	42	140	209	433	1 762
August	274	473	804	116	39	132	209	399	1 698
September	291	486	838	114	43	137	216	451	1 799
October	288	476	832	104	45	138	217	447	1 784
November	316	489	879	116	43	145	237	465	1 886
December	340	482	890	106	40	131	215	437	1 819
2000									
January	275	456	784	79	33	124	198	422	1 640
February	331	513	913	111	42	152	255	523	1 995
March	328	541	951	126	50	171	275	556	2 129
April	253	408	722	96	38	131	217	398	1 602
May	320	507	903	120	42	149	286	575	2 076
June	344	527	955	110	41	147	272	550	2 075
July	300	412	770	82	34	111	217	404	1 617
August	454	507	1 029	119	31	124	265	479	2 046
September	329	425	815	105	32	123	228	455	1 756

(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
1999						
July	1 147	1 120	2 267	811	82 574	35 589
August	1 137	1 276	2 413	572	84 402	36 383
September	1 291	1 201	2 492	507	86 561	37 126
October	1 189	1 106	2 295	805	88 041	38 072
November	1 326	1 275	2 601	599	90 246	38 648
December	1 226	1 251	2 477	690	92 124	40 040
2000						
January	945	783	1 729	919	92 932	40 382
February	1 062	1 038	2 100	576	94 448	41 302
March	1 652	1 391	3 043	838	96 560	42 351
April	959	1 362	2 321	805	97 640	43 030
May	1 322	1 628	2 950	1 021	99 559	44 347
June	1 649	1 221	2 870	983	102 805	46 665
July	1 015	1 399	2 414	1 047	103 417	46 882
August	1 018	1 591	2 609	825	105 179	45 877
September	970	857	1 827	729	106 423	44 880

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COMMERCIAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Fixed Loan Facilities: Original

Month	Construction finance \$m	Purchase of real property \$m	Wholesale finance \$m	Purchase of plant and equipment \$m	Factoring \$m	Refinancing \$m	Other \$m	Total \$m	Commitments not drawn at end of month \$m
1999									
July	818	2 594	145	632	94	574	1 771	6 626	9 284
August	788	2 707	97	569	110	577	1 359	6 207	9 569
September	838	2 724	170	764	119	612	1 893	7 120	10 169
October	745	2 929	158	635	89	697	2 815	8 070	11 238
November	783	3 279	268	647	90	601	1 666	7 335	11 696
December	702	3 305	210	758	154	596	2 320	8 046	11 250
2000									
January	711	2 361	190	588	75	1 099	2 458	7 482	11 582
February	482	3 281	301	710	111	1 214	1 865	7 965	12 285
March	747	3 456	370	765	149	692	1 341	7 520	12 180
April	668	2 667	363	642	114	486	1 543	6 483	12 660
May	662	3 282	275	782	157	415	2 262	7 836	11 511
June	1 429	3 724	390	1 231	122	1 647	4 727	13 270	12 515
July	581	2 263	438	571	127	564	3 486	8 030	13 180
August	675	2 537	349	846	134	1 019	2 302	7 862	11 863
September	868	2 166	347	736	195	824	2 340	7 476	12 443

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REVOLVING COMMERCIAL FINANCE AND LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS: Original

Month	REVOLVING CREDIT FACILITIES.....				LEASE FINANCE FACILITIES..		
	New and increased credit limits \$m	Cancellations and reductions \$m	Total credit limits at end of month \$m	Credit limits used at end of month \$m	Total commitments \$m	Commitments not drawn at end of month \$m	
1999							
July	7 955	8 385	206 909	115 046	852	362	
August	5 041	5 413	206 346	115 883	764	306	
September	4 412	5 111	205 573	116 497	785	285	
October	5 332	4 237	206 192	117 565	619	285	
November	5 482	3 697	209 219	119 450	650	358	
December	6 975	6 484	209 321	120 169	746	338	
2000							
January	4 581	4 329	208 708	118 354	491	359	
February	4 987	4 910	208 510	118 680	470	387	
March	6 628	4 407	211 281	118 569	548	379	
April	7 610	3 777	215 058	119 709	431	366	
May	7 226	7 980	215 323	121 972	545	414	
June	8 736	5 898	220 117	125 760	999	421	
July	8 040	6 219	223 848	126 827	403	309	
August	9 018	8 809	224 230	123 469	470	391	
September	7 354	6 515	222 213	130 354	457	428	

FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR HOUSING(a): Original

Month	SECURED, FOR OWNER OCCUPATION.....					UNSECURED, PERSONAL FINANCE		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
1999											
July	885	244	3 899	866	248	17	24	391	1 786	262	8 623
August	950	223	3 957	944	258	15	24	390	1 851	276	8 888
September	995	244	4 150	951	283	15	27	258	1 854	265	9 042
October	1 002	268	4 336	985	375	15	30	379	2 108	268	9 766
November	1 070	257	4 747	1 111	292	15	29	388	2 346	349	10 605
December	951	225	4 415	1 000	264	14	26	270	2 189	315	9 669
2000											
January	754	186	3 435	799	213	13	21	363	1 668	229	7 680
February	1 005	270	4 327	1 062	284	14	27	302	2 306	310	9 908
March	936	257	4 583	1 170	306	18	32	377	2 417	261	10 358
April	665	185	3 516	883	223	15	23	333	1 823	236	7 902
May	795	233	4 343	1 273	311	16	27	402	2 432	307	10 138
June	608	248	3 562	1 182	264	16	25	565	2 208	392	9 070
July	540	183	3 512	1 021	226	13	21	202	1 541	185	7 445
August	602	214	4 077	1 123	243	12	19	250	1 844	185	8 570
September	538	191	3 429	990	222	12	19	318	1 559	148	7 427

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

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
1999								
July	287	478	15	41	821	352	454	1 627
August	274	473	16	40	804	344	405	1 552
September	291	486	17	45	838	361	356	1 555
October	288	476	17	51	832	336	284	1 452
November	316	489	17	57	879	344	301	1 524
December	340	482	16	52	890	417	299	1 606
2000								
January	275	456	14	39	784	298	194	1 276
February	331	513	18	51	913	398	197	1 508
March	328	541	18	64	951	421	215	1 587
April	253	408	14	46	722	370	167	1 259
May	320	507	17	59	903	439	265	1 607
June	344	527	14	70	955	660	333	1 948
July	300	412	13	45	770	389	169	1 328
August	454	507	17	51	1 029	477	197	1 702
September	329	425	16	44	815	418	171	1 403

(a) Excludes revolving credit facilities.

LEASE FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES: Original

Month	MOTOR CARS & STATION WAGONS....		LIGHT TRUCKS.....		HEAVY TRUCKS		Other motor vehicles	Total
	New	Used	New	Used	New	Used		
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m		
1999								
July	248	73	45	10	39	16	22	454
August	224	72	31	7	43	12	17	405
September	201	52	30	7	32	17	16	356
October	172	44	25	5	20	8	10	284
November	156	43	30	4	25	16	28	301
December	183	45	28	5	19	8	11	299
2000								
January	122	32	12	3	14	5	7	194
February	117	32	17	6	11	7	8	197
March	127	33	14	4	23	5	8	215
April	99	26	12	3	12	7	8	167
May	162	42	19	4	13	15	11	265
June	189	60	27	9	16	14	18	333
July	104	30	10	3	9	8	5	169
August	123	32	13	3	15	5	5	197
September	102	29	11	3	15	5	6	171

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
1999					
July	76	204	279	399	678
August	43	182	225	359	584
September	60	343	403	429	832
October	60	239	299	335	634
November	39	265	303	348	652
December	62	280	342	447	788
2000					
January	42	249	290	297	587
February	47	266	312	273	585
March	63	281	344	333	677
April	46	227	272	264	536
May	44	300	343	279	623
June	75	495	570	666	1 237
July	35	147	182	234	416
August	41	328	369	274	643
September	38	279	317	287	604

(a) Excludes revolving credit facilities.

(b) Excludes motor vehicles, see Table 9.

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
1999									
July	45	24	37	50	117	56	26	43	399
August	7	28	37	57	106	54	26	43	359
September	8	30	34	88	136	53	22	57	429
October	11	17	38	52	89	47	27	53	335
November	16	14	24	44	114	55	29	52	348
December	23	11	17	88	169	48	39	52	447
2000									
January	7	13	14	41	135	39	16	32	297
February	11	21	22	35	87	40	13	43	273
March	6	48	20	37	90	55	46	30	333
April	11	30	19	23	83	44	26	27	264
May	6	24	22	30	95	44	31	28	279
June	18	57	44	68	172	65	154	88	666
July	7	15	10	23	84	45	22	28	234
August	5	16	13	24	106	44	26	39	274
September	5	15	14	35	100	53	23	43	287

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SCOPE

1 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

2 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.

3 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. All banks qualify as significant lenders and are therefore included.

CATEGORIES OF LENDING FINANCE

4 *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.

5 *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.

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

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

REVISIONS

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

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

9 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT *continued*
- 10** There is some evidence that a change may be occurring in the seasonal patterns of both the fixed and revolving credit components of the commercial finance series. When changes are occurring in the seasonal patterns, larger revisions to the seasonally adjusted series can be expected at the time of the annual seasonal re-analysis. A number of years of data is required before changes in seasonal patterns are fully reflected in the seasonally adjusted series. In these circumstances, especially, the trend estimate is a more reliable indicator of underlying movements in the series, although it should be recognised that the more volatile the seasonally adjusted series, the larger the monthly revisions which can be expected in the most recently published trend series estimates.
- TREND ESTIMATES
- 11** 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* (Cat. no. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on Canberra (02) 6252 6345.
- 12** While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 11 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
- 13** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:
- *Building Activity Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements* (Cat. no. 8750.0)
 - *Building Approvals, Australia* (Cat. no. 8731.0)
 - *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (Cat. no. 5609.0)
 - *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (Cat. no. 5625.0)
 - *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia: Preliminary* (Cat. no. 9301.0)
- 14** 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
- 15** Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication and more detailed commitment series by purpose, type of facility and industry are available. There may be a charge for this information, depending on the volume of data requested.
- 16** 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*.

EXPLANATORY NOTES



EFFECTS OF ROUNDING **17** Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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



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

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 include but are not restricted to those lenders who, Australia-wide during the calendar year 1999, committed funds of more than <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$187 million for Secured housing finance for owner occupation▪ \$92 million for Personal finance▪ \$402 million for Commercial Finance▪ \$47 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 will mean that such a derivation is inexact.
Wholesale finance	Comprises finance for the purchase of goods by retailers and wholesalers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

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2567100009008
ISSN 1327-4376

RRP \$17.00