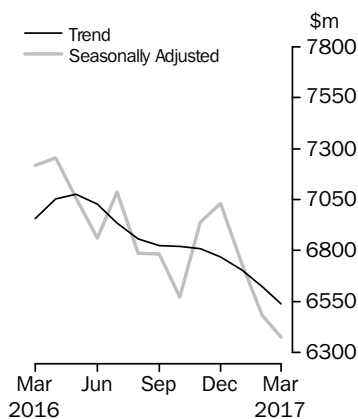


LENDING FINANCE

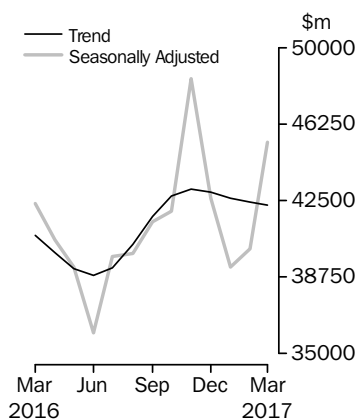
AUSTRALIA

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Personal Finance



Commercial Finance



INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

KEY FIGURES

	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017 to Mar 2017
	\$m	\$m	% change
TREND ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation(a)	20 117	20 143	0.1
Personal finance	6 625	6 538	-1.3
Commercial finance	42 434	42 292	-0.3
Lease finance	682	691	1.3
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation(a)	19 993	20 180	0.9
Personal finance	6 485	6 374	-1.7
Commercial finance	40 136	45 368	13.0
Lease finance	647	563	-13.0

(a) Excludes alterations and additions

KEY POINTS

MARCH 2017 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 2017:

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

- The total value of owner occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions rose 0.1% in trend terms, and the seasonally adjusted series rose 0.9%.

PERSONAL FINANCE

- The trend series for the value of total personal finance commitments fell 1.3%. Fixed lending commitments fell 1.7% and revolving credit commitments fell 0.7%.
- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total personal finance commitments fell 1.7%. Fixed lending commitments fell 3.2%, while revolving credit commitments rose 0.8%.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

- The trend series for the value of total commercial finance commitments fell 0.3%. Fixed lending commitments fell 1.4%, while revolving credit commitments rose 3.8%.
- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose 13.0%. Revolving credit commitments rose 36.8% and fixed lending commitments rose 7.1%.

LEASE FINANCE

- The trend series for the value of total lease finance commitments rose 1.3% in March 2017 and the seasonally adjusted series fell 13.0%, following a fall of 32.1% in February 2017.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
April 2017	9 June 2017
May 2017	13 July 2017
June 2017	11 August 2017
July 2017	11 September 2017
August 2017	16 October 2017
September 2017	13 November 2017

REVISIONS

In this issue, revisions have been made to the original series as a result of improved reporting of survey and administrative data. These revisions have affected the following series:

- Commercial Finance from July 2013 to February 2017.
- Personal Finance from June 2015 to February 2017.
- Owner-occupied finance from May 2012 to February 2017.
- Investment housing finance from July 2013 to February 2017.
- Lease Finance for the month of December 2016.

PRIVACY

The *ABS Privacy Policy* outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information that you provide to the ABS.

ABBREVIATIONS

\$m	million dollars
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADI	Authorised Deposit-taking Institution
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
ARIMA	autoregressive integrated moving average
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
RFC	Registered Financial Corporation

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

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TIME SERIES DATA

TIME SERIES DATA

Data available free on the ABS web site <http://www.abs.gov.au> include:

- longer time series of tables in this publication, and
- the following tables:

13. Lending Finance Seasonal Factors and Forward Factors for 12 months, By Purpose: Australia (from January 1985)
14. Commercial finance commitments, summary (original, seasonally adjusted, trend)
15. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit
16. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by lender
17. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans by industry
18. Commercial finance commitments, revolving credit by industry
- 19 to 26. Commercial finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by state and territory
27. Lease finance commitments, summary (original, seasonally adjusted, trend)
28. Lease finance commitments by purpose
29. Lease finance commitments by purpose and lender
30. Lease finance commitments by industry
- 31 to 38. Lease finance commitments by purpose and state and territory
39. Operating lease finance commitments by purpose
40. Operating lease finance commitments by lender
41. Operating lease finance commitments by industry
- 42 to 49. Operating lease finance commitments by purpose and state and territory
50. Personal finance commitments, summary (original, seasonally adjusted, trend)
51. Personal finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit
52. Personal finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by lender
- 53 to 60. Personal finance commitments, fixed loans and revolving credit by state and territory

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

The total value of owner occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions rose 0.1% in trend terms and the seasonally adjusted series rose 0.9%.

Further detail can be found in Table 1 on the downloads tab of this release and in the PDF.

For further information, please refer to Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0), which was released on 15 May 2017.

PERSONAL FINANCE

The trend series for the value of total personal finance commitments fell 1.3% in March 2017 compared with February 2017. Fixed lending commitments fell 1.7% and revolving credit commitments fell 0.7%.

The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total personal finance commitments fell 1.7%. Fixed lending commitments fell 3.2%, while revolving credit commitments rose 0.8%.

Further detail can be found in Tables 1 and 4 on the downloads tab of this release and in the PDF.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

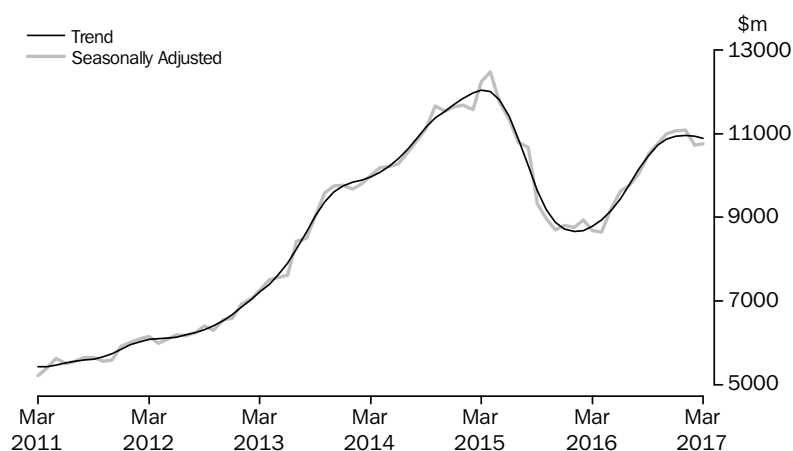
The trend series for the value of total commercial finance commitments fell 0.3% in March 2017 compared with February 2017. Fixed lending commitments fell 1.4%, while revolving credit commitments rose 3.8%.

The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose 13.0% in March 2017, following a rise of 2.3% in February 2017. Revolving lending commitments rose 36.8%, following a rise of 30.7% in the previous month. Fixed lending commitments rose 7.1%, after a fall of 3.0% in the previous month.

The value of commitments for the purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale (trend) fell 0.5% in March 2017 and the seasonally adjusted series rose 0.4%.

Further detail can be found in Tables 1 and 8 on the downloads tab of this release and in the PDF.

PURCHASE OF DWELLINGS BY INDIVIDUALS FOR RENT OR RESALE



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LEASE FINANCE

The trend series for the value of total lease finance commitments rose 1.3% in March 2017 and the seasonally adjusted series fell 13.0%, following a fall of 32.1% in February 2017.

Further detail can be found in Table 1 on the downloads tab of this release and in the PDF.

FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Summary

Month	SECURED HOUSING(a)		PERSONAL(b)			COMMERCIAL			LEASE
	Construction and purchase of dwellings(c)	Alterations and additions	Fixed loans(d)	Revolving credit(e)	Total	Fixed loans(d)	Revolving credit(e)	Total	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2016									
March	20 058	393	4 495	2 965	7 460	32 274	9 413	41 687	596
April	19 988	365	4 392	2 710	7 103	29 344	8 740	38 084	541
May	21 492	382	4 689	2 970	7 659	30 258	9 394	39 651	502
June	21 254	388	4 931	2 779	7 710	35 876	8 702	44 578	639
July	19 369	372	4 167	2 993	7 161	30 543	7 922	38 464	476
August	20 219	381	4 474	2 347	6 821	31 801	8 218	40 019	512
September	20 534	401	4 327	2 262	6 589	33 153	8 802	41 955	540
October	19 909	345	3 989	2 312	6 302	33 707	7 601	41 308	460
November	22 571	396	4 476	2 622	7 098	40 091	9 725	49 816	520
December	21 006	347	4 399	2 629	7 028	43 390	10 269	53 659	591
2017									
January	16 686	304	3 618	2 282	5 899	25 344	4 566	29 910	814
February	17 477	369	3 749	2 263	6 013	25 803	6 544	32 347	608
March	21 562	418	4 345	2 480	6 826	37 274	10 900	48 174	644
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2016									
March	20 124	371	4 372	2 846	7 217	32 387	9 963	42 350	551
April	20 283	373	4 333	2 923	7 256	31 050	9 534	40 584	566
May	20 131	361	4 221	2 837	7 058	29 738	9 519	39 257	488
June	20 415	364	4 272	2 590	6 862	29 468	6 551	36 019	537
July	19 831	380	4 342	2 746	7 088	31 520	8 241	39 761	492
August	19 715	371	4 339	2 449	6 788	31 738	8 179	39 916	523
September	19 866	378	4 332	2 451	6 783	32 521	8 949	41 470	548
October	19 811	360	4 306	2 266	6 572	33 961	8 022	41 983	490
November	19 949	375	4 319	2 620	6 939	39 159	9 332	48 492	516
December	20 130	359	4 460	2 571	7 031	34 656	7 974	42 630	549
2017									
January	20 129	381	4 296	2 441	6 737	33 079	6 167	39 247	953
February	19 993	379	4 099	2 386	6 485	32 072	8 064	40 136	647
March	20 180	366	3 970	2 404	6 374	34 340	11 028	45 368	563
TREND									
2016									
March	20 231	366	4 167	2 792	6 958	31 302	9 488	40 790	564
April	20 194	367	4 255	2 798	7 054	30 893	9 070	39 964	546
May	20 152	369	4 307	2 771	7 078	30 506	8 677	39 183	529
June	20 081	371	4 323	2 703	7 026	30 445	8 371	38 816	518
July	19 979	371	4 322	2 614	6 936	30 989	8 219	39 208	505
August	19 889	371	4 326	2 531	6 857	32 127	8 238	40 365	500
September	19 856	371	4 345	2 478	6 823	33 453	8 265	41 718	513
October	19 876	370	4 357	2 463	6 820	34 460	8 246	42 706	545
November	19 940	370	4 342	2 466	6 808	34 874	8 180	43 054	587
December	20 015	371	4 302	2 467	6 769	34 777	8 121	42 897	629
2017									
January	20 073	371	4 243	2 462	6 705	34 415	8 209	42 623	662
February	20 117	372	4 175	2 451	6 625	33 978	8 456	42 434	682
March	20 143	373	4 105	2 433	6 538	33 517	8 775	42 292	691

(a) For owner occupation.

(b) Includes unsecured housing finance for owner occupation.

(c) Includes refinancing across lending institutions (see Glossary).

(d) Includes refinancing (see Glossary).

(e) 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
2016										
March	18 421	np	np	926	20 058	5 906	135	117	1 302	7 460
April	18 535	179	436	839	19 988	5 550	139	111	1 302	7 103
May	20 058	np	np	855	21 492	6 087	np	np	1 305	7 659
June	19 834	np	np	768	21 254	5 988	151	171	1 400	7 710
July	17 929	np	np	723	19 369	5 559	126	133	1 343	7 161
August	18 799	212	425	783	20 219	5 221	139	126	1 336	6 821
September	19 012	175	586	762	20 534	5 008	142	128	1 311	6 589
October	18 605	120	443	741	19 909	4 724	117	158	1 303	6 302
November	21 105	128	502	835	22 571	5 304	141	148	1 504	7 098
December	19 481	160	498	867	21 006	5 227	146	150	1 505	7 028
2017										
January	15 373	85	422	806	16 686	4 282	122	201	1 295	5 899
February	16 128	138	361	850	17 477	4 565	129	147	1 171	6 013
March	20 167	193	430	772	21 562	5 210	152	154	1 310	6 826

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

(a) Secured finance for owner occupation. Excludes alterations and additions.
 (b) Includes unsecured housing finance for owner occupation.

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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
2016										
March	37 694	np	921	np	41 687	137	224	40	194	596
April	34 115	np	872	np	38 084	123	178	45	194	541
May	36 092	np	866	np	39 651	118	153	46	185	502
June	40 706	np	831	np	44 578	152	194	61	233	639
July	34 708	np	1 251	np	38 464	101	185	43	147	476
August	36 092	np	1 291	np	40 019	119	185	39	168	512
September	37 886	np	1 381	np	41 955	134	176	46	184	540
October	37 191	np	1 412	np	41 308	123	156	39	142	460
November	44 697	np	1 063	np	49 816	130	163	50	177	520
December	49 246	np	1 399	np	53 659	192	185	43	171	591
2017										
January	26 876	np	1 096	np	29 910	187	451	23	153	814
February	28 721	np	np	np	32 347	214	146	33	215	608
March	43 340	np	1 246	np	48 174	235	168	52	188	644

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

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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
2016									
March	764	488	1 431	574	50	983	557	899	4 495
April	717	459	1 350	535	37	1 014	589	867	4 392
May	736	474	1 378	635	41	1 126	588	921	4 689
June	882	502	1 573	667	52	1 041	715	884	4 931
July	741	479	1 382	543	38	855	570	781	4 167
August	740	552	1 475	578	52	912	609	849	4 474
September	738	527	1 447	579	54	774	617	856	4 327
October	684	484	1 334	549	60	635	602	810	3 989
November	770	506	1 442	620	77	745	674	917	4 476
December	757	467	1 385	684	63	642	740	887	4 399
2017									
January	701	494	1 335	439	54	541	516	733	3 618
February	669	485	1 294	551	59	553	518	774	3 749
March	737	631	1 525	676	91	503	586	966	4 345

(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(a)	Total limits(a)	Credit used
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2016						
March	1 091	1 875	2 965	3 115	267 313	107 725
April	962	1 748	2 710	2 830	267 284	106 995
May	884	2 086	2 970	3 249	267 240	106 634
June	741	2 038	2 779	3 336	266 936	107 110
July	1 281	1 712	2 993	2 718	267 314	105 312
August	660	1 687	2 347	5 783	266 091	104 557
September	649	1 613	2 262	2 823	265 523	103 916
October	683	1 630	2 312	2 778	265 090	103 887
November	848	1 775	2 622	3 478	265 386	104 050
December	963	1 666	2 629	2 688	265 720	103 977
2017						
January	494	1 788	2 282	2 402	254 098	99 866
February	734	1 530	2 263	2 607	253 146	100 814
March	805	1 676	2 480	2 707	253 011	99 972

(a) These figures sometimes reflect a rebasing of the data by one or more lenders without adjustment to earlier periods' commitments or cancellations.

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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
2016								
March	2 559	12 736	1 952	3 075	3 123	8 829	32 274	52 863
April	2 721	11 639	1 694	3 559	2 375	7 355	29 344	53 373
May	2 020	13 333	1 490	3 077	2 899	7 440	30 258	53 361
June	1 832	15 804	2 235	3 241	3 177	9 586	35 876	54 137
July	1 996	13 390	1 746	2 821	2 672	7 919	30 543	55 616
August	1 780	13 702	2 270	3 091	2 571	8 388	31 801	53 832
September	1 320	14 237	1 690	2 998	3 569	9 340	33 153	53 571
October	1 514	13 741	1 947	2 929	2 525	11 051	33 707	56 115
November	4 359	16 032	1 987	4 617	2 652	10 444	40 091	59 725
December	2 628	15 981	2 034	3 825	4 017	14 905	43 390	57 012
2017								
January	1 576	12 164	1 620	2 150	1 988	5 846	25 344	56 569
February	1 324	12 669	1 702	2 712	1 825	5 571	25 803	56 732
March	1 659	15 871	2 729	3 156	3 879	9 981	37 274	60 546

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LEASE AND REVOLVING COMMERCIAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, BY STOCK: AUSTRALIA, ORIGINAL (\$M)

	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
2016						
March	596	np	9 413	9 889	337 223	193 190
April	541	np	8 740	9 621	340 467	194 797
May	502	np	9 394	10 407	357 120	201 530
June	639	np	8 702	10 866	353 291	199 217
July	476	np	7 922	10 049	350 829	197 453
August	512	np	8 218	8 338	350 691	193 205
September	540	np	8 802	8 511	351 766	192 588
October	460	np	7 601	9 172	349 676	192 795
November	520	np	9 725	7 929	351 699	190 086
December	591	np	10 269	9 421	353 942	188 779
2017						
January	814	np	4 566	8 556	348 621	187 686
February	608	np	6 544	6 382	348 320	188 171
March	644	np	10 900	8 676	350 876	188 565

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

FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Housing (Owner Occupation and Commercial)

Month	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(b)	Alterations and additions	Total(c)	Construction of dwellings for rent and resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale (d)	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2016									
March	1 696	931	17 430	393	50	1 843	8 708	1 115	32 166
April	1 763	962	17 263	365	37	1 039	8 699	1 027	31 156
May	2 009	1 029	18 454	382	41	1 388	10 182	1 015	34 500
June	1 983	1 101	18 170	388	52	1 476	11 273	1 142	35 584
July	1 762	931	16 676	372	38	1 144	9 655	1 144	31 722
August	1 974	1 034	17 211	381	52	814	10 225	1 007	32 697
September	1 899	1 017	17 618	401	54	946	10 518	1 228	33 682
October	1 782	1 046	17 081	345	60	750	10 247	975	32 286
November	1 950	1 229	19 392	396	77	1 338	11 822	1 044	37 248
December	1 856	1 168	17 982	347	63	977	11 380	1 372	35 144
2017									
January	1 427	840	14 418	304	54	834	8 813	1 029	27 720
February	1 623	870	14 984	369	59	837	9 117	982	28 843
March	1 978	1 200	18 383	418	91	1 227	11 547	1 157	36 001
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2016									
March	1 683	917	17 525	371	45	1 623	8 686	1 075	31 926
April	1 803	1 011	17 468	373	38	1 099	8 640	1 144	31 578
May	1 803	1 005	17 323	361	40	1 209	9 185	971	31 897
June	1 785	1 033	17 596	364	49	1 210	9 619	1 028	32 685
July	1 797	984	17 049	380	42	1 110	9 765	1 091	32 218
August	1 848	981	16 887	371	55	814	10 036	984	31 974
September	1 813	1 011	17 042	378	52	897	10 504	1 054	32 750
October	1 834	1 024	16 953	360	60	840	10 748	1 077	32 895
November	1 841	1 054	17 055	375	62	1 329	10 992	1 024	33 732
December	1 858	1 084	17 188	359	62	895	11 056	1 173	33 676
2017									
January	1 815	1 061	17 253	381	66	1 205	11 072	1 401	34 253
February	1 838	988	17 167	379	65	1 038	10 724	1 133	33 331
March	1 837	1 099	17 244	366	75	1 102	10 765	1 130	33 618
TREND									
2016									
March	1 770	980	17 481	366	44	1 256	8 788	1 108	31 792
April	1 770	986	17 438	367	43	1 265	8 934	1 082	31 886
May	1 779	992	17 382	369	43	1 220	9 153	1 058	31 996
June	1 794	996	17 291	371	44	1 134	9 445	1 038	32 113
July	1 810	1 001	17 168	371	47	1 039	9 787	1 022	32 245
August	1 822	1 008	17 059	371	51	972	10 145	1 022	32 450
September	1 829	1 017	17 010	371	55	955	10 473	1 044	32 753
October	1 834	1 028	17 014	370	58	976	10 715	1 081	33 077
November	1 837	1 040	17 062	370	61	1 016	10 867	1 123	33 376
December	1 838	1 050	17 128	371	63	1 060	10 942	1 161	33 613
2017									
January	1 837	1 055	17 181	371	66	1 091	10 959	1 190	33 751
February	1 836	1 059	17 221	372	68	1 111	10 941	1 208	33 817
March	1 837	1 061	17 246	373	70	1 116	10 888	1 211	33 802

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

(b) Includes refinancing across lending institutions (see glossary)

(c) Includes alterations and additions.

(d) Includes refinancing (See Glossary)

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
2016								
March	764	488	54	126	1 431	1 410	319	3 161
April	717	459	48	125	1 350	1 613	318	3 281
May	736	474	44	124	1 378	1 445	315	3 137
June	882	502	50	139	1 573	1 627	403	3 604
July	741	479	42	119	1 382	1 281	300	2 963
August	740	552	57	125	1 475	1 250	316	3 041
September	738	527	55	127	1 447	1 296	329	3 072
October	684	484	49	117	1 334	1 170	307	2 811
November	770	506	49	117	1 442	1 297	341	3 080
December	757	467	49	111	1 385	1 275	346	3 005
2017								
January	701	494	41	100	1 335	910	299	2 544
February	669	485	41	99	1 294	1 159	318	2 771
March	737	631	40	116	1 525	1 383	380	3 287

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

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

Month	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
2016								
March	202	61	28	np	8	np	np	319
April	196	59	26	6	19	2	10	318
May	193	63	28	np	10	2	np	315
June	220	67	34	np	60	2	np	403
July	183	59	29	np	13	1	np	300
August	206	57	28	np	8	1	np	316
September	220	56	24	np	10	1	np	329
October	202	57	23	np	10	np	np	307
November	216	61	27	np	18	np	np	341
December	225	57	29	np	18	np	np	346
2017								
January	175	57	21	np	np	np	np	299
February	200	67	26	np	8	np	np	318
March	230	79	31	7	20	np	np	380

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

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

Month	COMMERCIAL FINANCE(b)			LEASE FINANCE	ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FINANCE
	<i>Transport equipment</i>	<i>Other plant and equipment</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2016					
March	216	1 449	1 664	277	1 942
April	273	1 673	1 946	223	2 169
May	457	1 175	1 632	187	1 819
June	240	1 374	1 614	236	1 850
July	265	1 274	1 540	176	1 716
August	213	1 628	1 841	196	2 037
September	218	1 484	1 702	211	1 913
October	236	1 524	1 759	153	1 913
November	236	3 084	3 320	179	3 499
December	231	2 319	2 550	245	2 796
2017					
January	161	1 080	1 240	515	1 756
February	238	1 315	1 553	291	1 844
March	278	1 495	1 773	264	2 037

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

(b) Excludes revolving credit.

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

	Transport equipment (a)	Construction and earthmoving equipment	Agricultural machinery and equipment	Manu- facturing equipment	Electronic data processing equipment	Office machines	Shop and office furniture, fittings and equipment	Other goods	Total
Month	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2016									
March	np	96	14	np	46	55	38	23	277
April	3	48	np	np	56	46	17	22	223
May	8	42	np	np	47	47	15	15	187
June	5	51	26	2	49	48	12	44	236
July	np	45	np	np	45	51	6	np	176
August	np	63	6	2	39	50	18	np	196
September	np	62	np	np	38	51	24	np	211
October	np	37	np	np	42	38	7	np	153
November	np	57	np	np	38	41	11	np	179
December	—	55	21	1	67	47	33	21	245
2017									
January	np	24	10	1	np	90	np	np	515
February	2	94	9	2	49	111	11	12	291
March	np	58	np	np	38	95	24	np	264

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication presents statistics on 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 leases and excludes operating and leverage leases. Operating lease finance statistics are provided separately as spreadsheets on the Downloads tab of this issue.

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)
 - Registered Financial Corporations (RFCs).

COVERAGE

- 7** Until the statistics in this publication were derived from returns submitted to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) (see paragraph 10), the statistics covered 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 were 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 were covered. While many lenders other than banks were not covered, at least 70% coverage was maintained for all published lender types (including the Other Lenders series and Other Lessors series).
- 8** When APRA commenced the collection, lending commitments by Non-Banks with total assets of \$50 million or more were covered. All banks' lending commitments were covered.
- 9** From January 2014 a monthly reporting threshold was introduced for Non-Banks to provide 95 per cent asset coverage of the non-bank sector. Non-banks with assets below the \$200m asset threshold ceased reporting from January 2014 while other Non-Banks with assets above the threshold started reporting to APRA from January 2014. The lending commitments of those which started reporting in January 2014 were excluded from the January 2014 to January 2015 published statistics pending assessment of seasonal impacts of those non-banks' commitments on seasonally adjusted and trend series estimates. Issues of this publication from February 2015 include finance commitments from January 2014 reported by Non-Banks above the reporting threshold.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COVERAGE *continued*

A trend break in January 2014 was added to the Lease Finance series published in Tables 1 and 27, due to this change in coverage.

SOURCES

10 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 and building societies in July 2002, and from RFCs in March 2003.

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

12 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).

13 Electronic versions of the forms and instructions for ADIs are available on the APRA website at <http://www.apra.gov.au/adi/reportingframework/pages/adi-reporting.aspx>. For RFCs, these are available at: <http://www.apra.gov.au/NonReg/Pages/Registered-Financial-Corporations.aspx>.

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

REVISIONS

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

16 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 recorded in the 'Series breaks' tabs of Statistical Table B2 on the Reserve Bank of Australia's website: RBA Statistical Tables.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

17 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.

18 Estimation of seasonal adjustment and trading day factors that reflect the full effect of recent developments is not possible until a sufficient number of years of data have been collected. When changes are occurring in the seasonal patterns, larger revisions to the seasonally adjusted series can be expected at the time of the biennial (once every

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

continued

two years) seasonal reanalysis. Accordingly, the trend estimate data provide a more reliable indicator of underlying movement in housing finance commitments. (See paragraphs 21 and 22 for further information on trend estimates).

19 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.

20 Autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) modelling can improve the revision properties of the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. ARIMA modelling relies on the characteristics of the series being analysed to project future period data. The projected values are temporary, intermediate values, that are only used internally to improve the estimation of the seasonal factors. The projected data do not affect the original estimates and are discarded at the end of the seasonal adjustment process. The lending finance collections use an individual ARIMA model for the majority of the series in this publication. The concurrent seasonal adjustment approach re-estimates seasonal factors each month with the receipt of each new observation. The parameters used for seasonal adjustment are routinely reviewed every 12 to 24 months to ensure the quality of the seasonal factors. The last reanalysis occurred in February 2017 for the January 2017 issue. For more information on ARIMA modelling see *Feature article: Use of ARIMA modelling to reduce revisions* in the October 2004 issue of *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0).

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).

22 While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 21 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. Published changes in dollar value and percentage terms are calculated using unrounded data and may differ slightly from, but are more accurate than, changes calculated from the rounded data presented in this publication.

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

24 Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication and more detailed series are available in spreadsheet format from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website. 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. 5232.0.55.001) – issued quarterly.
- *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0) – issued monthly.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

continued

- *Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary* (cat. no. 8750.0) – issued quarterly (final issue June 2012).
- *Building Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8752.0) – issued quarterly.
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 5625.0).
- *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia* (cat. no. 9314.0).

26 In addition, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) produces the 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 website <http://www.apra.gov.au>.

27 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics View. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au> 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	For owner occupation, comprises commitments made to individuals to finance, by way of progress payments, the construction of owner occupied dwellings. For commercial finance construction of dwellings for rental or resale, comprises commitments made to corporations to finance the construction of dwellings to be occupied by persons other than the owner(s).
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.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Office machines	Includes telephone systems (including PABX equipment), facsimile machines, cash registers, photocopiers, etc.
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.
Real Property	Comprises both residential and non-residential land, buildings and fixed structures.
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 a different 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.
Wholesale lenders	A wholesale lender provides funds to borrowers through a retail intermediary which may then also be responsible for the ongoing relationship with the borrower. The Wholesale Lenders n.e.c. series almost exclusively comprises securitisation vehicles (typically special purpose trusts) established to issue mortgage backed securities. It excludes funds provided where a bank or permanent building society, acting as a wholesale provider of funds, remains the lender on the contract. Those commitments are published as bank or permanent building society commitments.

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INTERNET **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

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PHONE 1300 135 070

EMAIL client.services@abs.gov.au

FAX 1300 135 211

POST Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

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