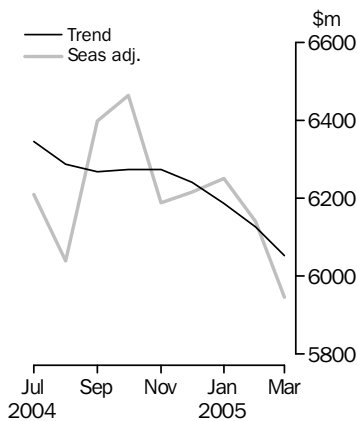


LENDING FINANCE

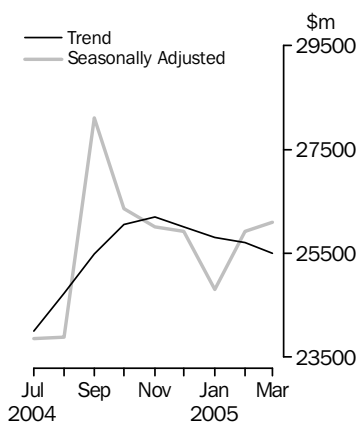
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Personal finance



Commercial finance



INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Vincent Nguyen on Canberra (02) 6252 6398.

KEY FIGURES

	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Feb 2005 to Mar 2005
	\$m	\$m	% change
TREND ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	11 672	11 884	1.8
Personal finance	6 127	6 053	-1.2
Commercial finance	25 700	25 501	-0.8
Lease finance	526	522	-0.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	11 836	11 992	1.3
Personal finance	6 141	5 947	-3.2
Commercial finance	25 929	26 098	0.7
Lease finance	551	507	-7.9

KEY POINTS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

- The total value of owner-occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 1.3% (seasonally adjusted) in March 2005. The trend series increased by 1.8%.

PERSONAL FINANCE

- The seasonally adjusted series for total personal finance commitments fell by 3.2% in March 2005. Fixed lending and revolving credit commitments decreased by 1.5% and 4.4%, respectively.
- The total personal finance trend series fell by 1.2% in March 2005, the fourth consecutive monthly decrease.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

- The total commercial finance series (seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.7% in March 2005. The increase in revolving credit (up 12.8%) more than offset the decrease in fixed lending (down 6.3%).
- The purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale (seasonally adjusted) series fell by 1.7% in March 2005, after an increase of 1.6% in February.
- The trend series for total commercial finance fell by 0.8% in March 2005. This fall was due to the decrease in fixed lending (down 2.1%) more than offsetting the increase in revolving credit (up 1.5%).

LEASE FINANCE

- Lease finance (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 7.9% in March 2005.
- The lease finance trend fell by 0.9% in March 2005, the fourth decrease following six consecutive monthly increases.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
April 2005	10 June 2005
May 2005	13 July 2005
June 2005	12 August 2005
July 2005	9 September 2005
August 2005	12 October 2005
September 2005	11 November 2005



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

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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 2006

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

The total value of commitments excluding alterations and additions (seasonally adjusted) increased by 1.3% in March 2005. The trend series increased by 1.8%.

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

PERSONAL FINANCE

In seasonally adjusted terms, total personal finance fell by 3.2% in March 2005. Fixed lending and revolving credit commitments decreased by 1.5% and 4.4%, respectively. The total personal finance trend series fell by 1.2%.

In original terms, fixed lending commitments increased by \$236m (up 9.1%) in March 2005. Movements in the original series contributing to this increase were:

- Debt consolidation, up \$74m (28.7%) compared with an average February to March increase of 13.0% over the previous three years,
- Refinancing, up \$68m (14.2%) compared with an average February to March increase of 8.6% over the previous three years.

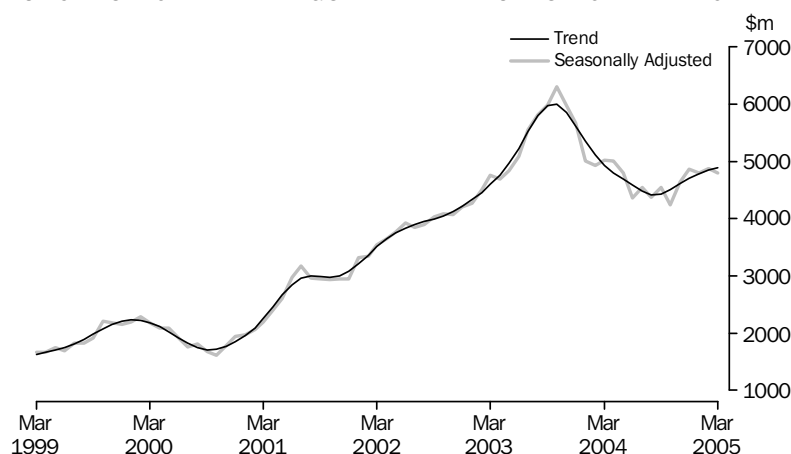
COMMERCIAL FINANCE

Total commercial finance (seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.7% in March 2005, following an increase of 4.5% in February. The increase in the seasonally adjusted series was driven by an increase in revolving credit commitments (up 12.8%) which was partly offset by a decrease in fixed lending (down 6.3%).

The trend series for total commercial finance decreased by 0.8% in March 2005, the fourth monthly decrease following six consecutive monthly increases. This fall was due to the decrease in fixed lending (down 2.1%) more than offsetting the increase in revolving credit (up 1.5%).

The seasonally adjusted purchase of dwellings for rent or resale by individuals series fell by 1.7% in March 2005. The trend series increased by 0.8% in March 2005, the seventh consecutive monthly increase.

PURCHASE OF DWELLINGS BY INDIVIDUALS FOR RENT OR RESALE



LEASE FINANCE

Total lease finance (seasonally adjusted) fell by 7.9% in March 2005. The lease finance trend series fell by 0.9% in March 2005, the fourth decrease following six consecutive monthly increases.

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									
2004									
March	11 175	638	3 124	3 959	7 082	16 941	7 185	24 125	562
April	9 910	525	2 628	3 618	6 246	14 406	9 994	24 401	456
May	10 636	545	2 837	3 876	6 713	17 294	5 884	23 178	464
June	10 762	560	3 096	4 242	7 338	18 325	8 607	26 932	603
July	10 758	509	3 010	3 533	6 543	17 229	8 808	26 037	520
August	10 705	490	2 916	3 174	6 090	16 004	8 409	24 412	521
September	10 872	498	2 954	3 450	6 404	16 183	12 202	28 385	593
October	10 223	451	2 828	3 491	6 319	17 694	7 771	25 465	503
November	11 575	500	3 078	3 478	6 556	16 723	9 326	26 049	519
December	11 532	468	2 827	3 469	6 297	19 375	10 447	29 822	581
2005									
January	8 721	354	2 269	2 818	5 087	11 545	6 247	17 792	404
February	10 696	465	2 576	2 992	5 568	13 655	7 831	21 486	461
March	12 196	519	2 811	3 508	6 320	15 210	9 878	25 088	503
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2004									
March	10 118	543	2 814	3 796	6 610	16 664	7 413	24 077	540
April	10 324	565	2 788	3 921	6 709	16 484	9 875	26 359	513
May	10 260	535	2 865	3 816	6 681	16 406	6 691	23 097	489
June	10 092	524	2 799	3 589	6 388	13 783	6 990	20 773	425
July	10 419	526	2 918	3 293	6 211	15 837	8 020	23 858	474
August	10 378	503	2 920	3 119	6 039	15 751	8 131	23 882	534
September	10 513	493	2 966	3 432	6 398	16 197	11 909	28 106	573
October	10 513	449	2 937	3 528	6 465	17 925	8 429	26 355	536
November	10 888	461	2 950	3 240	6 190	16 965	9 052	26 017	543
December	11 243	469	2 812	3 405	6 217	17 436	8 489	25 924	520
2005									
January	11 289	451	2 691	3 560	6 251	16 083	8 719	24 801	526
February	11 836	473	2 672	3 469	6 141	16 455	9 475	25 929	551
March	11 992	478	2 631	3 315	5 947	15 410	10 688	26 098	507
TREND									
2004									
March	10 112	541	2 779	3 810	6 589	16 139	7 826	23 964	498
April	10 131	543	2 796	3 763	6 559	15 828	7 694	23 522	488
May	10 189	541	2 827	3 674	6 502	15 597	7 718	23 314	484
June	10 249	532	2 864	3 561	6 425	15 525	7 949	23 474	487
July	10 308	517	2 901	3 444	6 346	15 662	8 340	24 003	497
August	10 381	500	2 930	3 358	6 288	15 972	8 751	24 723	511
September	10 493	484	2 942	3 326	6 268	16 446	9 048	25 494	529
October	10 670	472	2 925	3 349	6 274	16 865	9 195	26 059	540
November	10 901	465	2 880	3 394	6 274	17 024	9 177	26 201	542
December	11 158	462	2 817	3 425	6 242	16 891	9 117	26 008	537
2005									
January	11 423	463	2 751	3 436	6 187	16 625	9 188	25 813	531
February	11 672	465	2 691	3 436	6 127	16 323	9 377	25 700	526
March	11 884	469	2 637	3 416	6 053	15 986	9 515	25 501	522

(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
2004										
March	8 602	332	1 639	602	11 175	5 502	330	978	273	7 082
April	7 831	270	1 298	510	9 910	4 855	289	837	265	6 246
May	8 344	317	1 452	522	10 636	5 259	278	897	278	6 713
June	8 435	275	1 538	513	10 762	5 812	289	994	243	7 338
July	8 418	298	1 474	568	10 758	5 168	266	881	228	6 543
August	8 270	284	1 556	594	10 705	4 726	270	544	550	6 090
September	8 439	305	1 543	585	10 872	5 016	np	np	554	6 404
October	7 989	303	1 413	518	10 223	4 962	260	525	572	6 319
November	9 043	355	1 593	584	11 575	4 955	307	543	752	6 556
December	9 088	310	1 523	611	11 532	5 034	319	294	650	6 297
2005										
January	6 861	245	1 121	495	8 721	3 882	227	253	726	5 087
February	8 412	361	1 401	521	10 696	4 375	262	276	654	5 568
March	9 539	425	1 602	630	12 196	4 962	294	291	773	6 320

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.

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
2004										
March	20 427	np	554	np	24 125	182	172	121	87	562
April	np	np	440	np	24 401	160	114	108	73	456
May	20 564	np	463	np	23 178	164	113	115	72	464
June	23 627	142	563	2 600	26 932	221	137	151	95	603
July	22 984	442	451	2 161	26 037	199	124	111	85	520
August	20 715	np	404	np	24 412	195	127	107	91	521
September	np	283	382	5 211	28 385	197	207	101	87	593
October	22 729	264	407	2 064	25 465	169	141	104	89	503
November	np	204	385	3 649	26 049	183	132	104	99	519
December	np	967	420	2 892	29 822	200	162	119	100	581
2005										
January	np	np	254	np	17 792	108	154	77	65	404
February	18 651	np	373	np	21 486	171	111	91	88	461
March	np	np	370	np	25 088	174	127	106	97	503

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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
2004									
March	377	538	1 013	364	56	289	561	841	3 124
April	307	450	836	320	47	236	461	728	2 628
May	322	465	881	368	46	262	529	751	2 837
June	373	507	983	383	47	244	607	831	3 096
July	367	502	966	368	44	241	596	796	3 010
August	353	507	962	377	48	224	567	738	2 916
September	349	509	969	356	48	235	559	788	2 954
October	324	479	911	346	40	246	521	764	2 828
November	349	516	975	375	53	276	595	804	3 078
December	300	462	829	366	48	263	621	700	2 827
2005									
January	270	431	750	268	34	206	468	542	2 269
February	310	464	833	329	40	257	476	641	2 576
March	315	468	840	345	45	331	543	707	2 811

(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**

<i>Month</i>	NEW AND INCREASED CREDIT LIMITS			CANCELLATIONS AND REDUCTIONS	CREDIT AT END OF MONTH	
	<i>Secured</i>	<i>Unsecured</i>	Total	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total limits(a)</i>	<i>Credit used</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2004						
March	2 136	1 823	3 959	1 423	173 589	83 959
April	1 756	1 863	3 618	1 361	175 896	85 106
May	1 960	1 915	3 876	2 162	182 235	87 411
June	2 298	1 944	4 242	1 597	184 851	88 998
July	2 059	1 474	3 533	1 388	186 977	91 098
August	1 800	1 374	3 174	1 292	187 784	91 372
September	1 939	1 511	3 450	1 611	189 617	92 718
October	1 619	1 872	3 491	1 471	191 914	94 262
November	1 885	1 593	3 478	1 407	194 273	94 410
December	1 911	1 559	3 469	1 503	196 130	95 727
2005						
January	1 413	1 405	2 818	1 308	197 147	94 899
February	1 630	1 362	2 992	1 378	198 782	96 086
March	1 842	1 666	3 508	1 704	200 588	96 678

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

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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
2004								
March	1 632	7 229	727	1 259	2 220	3 872	16 941	30 523
April	860	6 022	724	930	1 222	4 648	14 406	30 394
May	1 409	6 452	762	983	1 399	6 288	17 294	30 284
June	2 164	7 091	837	1 244	1 502	5 488	18 325	29 768
July	1 651	6 556	1 012	1 170	1 330	5 509	17 229	31 459
August	1 576	6 225	729	1 062	1 696	4 715	16 004	29 833
September	1 078	6 684	708	1 079	1 207	5 427	16 183	29 554
October	2 633	6 330	650	1 060	2 063	4 959	17 694	28 216
November	1 435	6 682	732	1 131	961	5 782	16 723	30 084
December	1 563	7 037	596	1 239	1 525	7 414	19 375	31 794
2005								
January	809	4 809	671	776	737	3 743	11 545	31 027
February	889	5 663	np	1 043	831	np	13 655	31 519
March	1 151	6 159	762	1 138	1 576	4 424	15 210	32 485

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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
2004						
March	562	472	7 185	6 890	225 184	112 267
April	456	414	9 994	5 636	229 657	115 527
May	464	434	5 884	5 116	230 168	114 548
June	603	442	8 607	6 112	232 652	118 240
July	520	745	8 808	5 424	235 921	117 792
August	521	709	8 409	6 564	235 567	118 419
September	593	755	12 202	5 833	242 555	120 176
October	503	636	7 771	6 978	243 417	122 827
November	519	707	9 326	6 385	245 235	122 276
December	581	np	10 447	7 133	248 693	123 775
2005						
January	404	np	6 247	4 767	250 180	123 732
February	461	np	7 831	6 328	253 038	127 495
March	503	np	9 878	5 926	257 012	128 536

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FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Housing (Owner Occupation and Commercial) (\$m)

	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 dwelling by others for rent or resale	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2004									
March	995	438	9 741	638	56	646	5 544	483	18 542
April	887	421	8 601	525	47	478	4 736	394	16 090
May	999	422	9 214	545	46	551	5 035	491	17 304
June	1 019	447	9 296	560	47	695	5 108	555	17 728
July	1 037	461	9 260	509	44	605	4 623	484	17 022
August	1 003	455	9 247	490	48	602	4 595	524	16 963
September	994	466	9 413	498	48	592	4 628	408	17 045
October	910	436	8 877	451	40	540	4 133	412	15 800
November	965	472	10 138	500	53	675	4 830	592	18 226
December	962	527	10 043	468	48	587	4 855	549	18 039
2005									
January	721	376	7 625	354	34	356	3 584	333	13 383
February	870	447	9 378	465	40	528	4 296	463	16 488
March	993	520	10 683	519	45	539	4 884	424	18 606
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2004									
March	949	408	8 761	543	48	584	5 017	505	16 815
April	971	438	8 915	565	49	511	5 008	448	16 904
May	958	416	8 885	535	46	543	4 792	457	16 633
June	938	418	8 735	524	44	588	4 360	401	16 007
July	931	432	9 055	526	45	576	4 545	488	16 598
August	937	457	8 984	503	50	579	4 371	496	16 377
September	943	453	9 117	493	48	620	4 541	451	16 665
October	925	464	9 125	449	44	485	4 246	458	16 195
November	924	464	9 501	461	48	640	4 641	502	17 182
December	941	478	9 824	469	44	556	4 866	495	17 673
2005									
January	964	478	9 847	451	43	534	4 802	434	17 553
February	993	481	10 362	473	41	603	4 881	574	18 408
March	1 008	495	10 489	478	42	518	4 800	448	18 279
TREND									
2004									
March	956	420	8 736	541	47	533	4 932	469	16 633
April	952	423	8 755	543	47	545	4 801	459	16 525
May	950	426	8 813	541	47	557	4 694	455	16 482
June	945	430	8 873	532	47	567	4 583	454	16 432
July	940	436	8 932	517	47	576	4 481	457	16 386
August	934	444	9 003	500	47	579	4 419	463	16 389
September	929	454	9 110	484	47	579	4 429	470	16 502
October	931	462	9 278	472	46	576	4 505	477	16 747
November	938	468	9 494	465	46	571	4 607	482	17 071
December	950	474	9 734	462	44	567	4 703	485	17 420
2005									
January	964	479	9 979	463	43	562	4 785	489	17 765
February	979	485	10 209	465	42	557	4 850	492	18 079
March	994	489	10 401	469	42	551	4 891	494	18 331

(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
2004								
March	377	538	19	79	1 013	721	273	2 007
April	307	450	17	62	836	601	251	1 688
May	322	465	18	76	881	645	250	1 776
June	373	507	17	87	983	790	303	2 076
July	367	502	18	78	966	676	262	1 903
August	353	507	15	87	962	662	258	1 881
September	349	509	16	94	969	646	263	1 879
October	324	479	21	87	911	641	267	1 818
November	349	516	24	85	975	692	283	1 950
December	300	462	23	43	829	724	288	1 840
2005								
January	270	431	19	30	750	477	182	1 410
February	310	464	24	35	833	603	230	1 666
March	315	468	23	35	840	604	253	1 697

(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
2004								
March	170	39	21	4	28	3	8	273
April	155	31	17	3	22	13	9	251
May	157	38	20	4	16	4	10	250
June	184	44	30	5	26	5	10	303
July	169	40	24	3	15	3	7	262
August	161	41	20	3	17	5	12	258
September	154	41	19	4	20	5	22	263
October	165	40	18	2	22	6	13	267
November	178	42	18	2	17	10	16	283
December	199	38	19	3	14	4	12	288
2005								
January	124	30	10	3	8	3	5	182
February	159	35	14	4	9	4	6	230
March	175	37	14	5	12	3	6	253

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
2004					
March	58	480	538	289	827
April	49	281	329	205	534
May	57	280	338	215	552
June	94	360	454	300	754
July	133	361	494	258	752
August	59	342	401	263	664
September	79	354	432	329	762
October	73	346	419	236	655
November	98	340	438	236	674
December	137	378	516	293	809
2005					
January	55	244	299	221	520
February	69	370	440	231	671
March	88	445	534	251	784

(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>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2004									
March	6	22	13	24	109	52	16	46	289
April	9	24	13	14	62	42	12	30	205
May	8	20	18	16	51	49	19	33	215
June	10	33	27	31	71	49	19	59	300
July	5	55	11	28	50	46	18	45	258
August	3	30	8	18	105	46	15	37	263
September	8	31	17	25	142	46	18	42	329
October	5	17	14	18	88	39	14	41	236
November	6	39	11	23	53	43	17	43	236
December	6	31	13	21	97	52	35	38	293
2005									
January	4	20	9	13	102	27	14	32	221
February	5	36	9	21	74	35	18	33	231
March	4	44	14	22	57	53	18	38	251

(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.

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).

REVISIONS

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

13 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

14 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.

15 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

16 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>.

17 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

18 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

19 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

20 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)

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

continued

- *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).

21 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>>.

22 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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- 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.
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