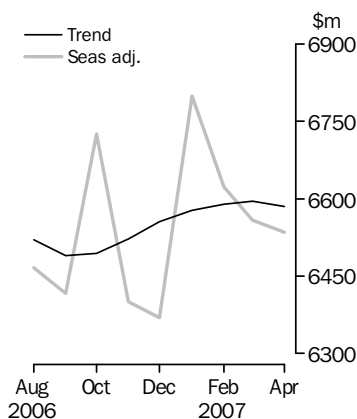


LENDING FINANCE

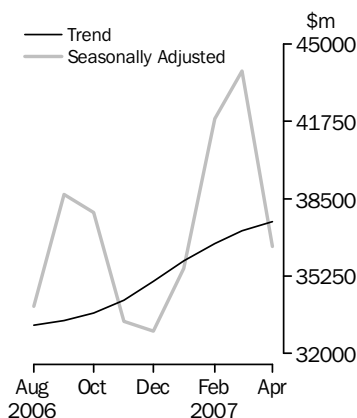
AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 12 JUN 2007

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 Philip Beresford on Canberra (02) 6252 6052.

KEY FIGURES

	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	Mar 2007 to Apr 2007
	\$m	\$m	% change
TREND ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	14 728	14 911	1.2
Personal finance	6 595	6 585	-0.2
Commercial finance	37 170	37 541	1.0
Lease finance	555	566	2.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	14 694	15 209	3.5
Personal finance	6 559	6 534	-0.4
Commercial finance	43 866	36 481	-16.8
Lease finance	569	582	2.2

KEY POINTS

APRIL 2007 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2007:

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

- The total value of owner occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 3.5% (seasonally adjusted) and the trend series rose 1.2%.

PERSONAL FINANCE

- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total personal finance commitments fell by 0.4%. This decrease was due to a fall in revolving credit commitments (down 3.0%), offset by a rise in fixed lending commitments (up 2.6%).
- The trend series for the value of total personal finance fell 0.2% due to a fall in revolving credit commitments (down 0.8%), while fixed lending commitments rose 0.6%.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments fell by 16.8%. This decrease was due to a fall in revolving credit commitments (down 37.9%), which was partially offset by an increase in fixed lending commitments (up 5.9%).
- The trend series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose 1.0%. This was due to a rise in revolving credit commitments (up 3.6%), which was partially offset by a decrease in fixed lending commitments (down 0.6%).

LEASE FINANCE

- Lease finance commitments (seasonally adjusted) increased by 2.2%. The lease finance trend series rose by 2.1%.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
May 2007	11 July 2007
June 2007	10 August 2007
July 2007	11 September 2007
August 2007	15 October 2007
September 2007	12 November 2007
October 2007	12 December 2007



REVISIONS

Revisions were made to include the latest available administrative and survey data including the reclassification of some loans (as foreshadowed in the November and December 2006 issues), and improvements to coverage. The revisions apply from December 2004 onwards and, in original terms, for March 2007:

- increased the value of total commercial finance commitments by \$5,038m to \$44,164m;
- decreased the value of total personal finance commitments by \$153m to \$6,996m.

CHANGES TO THIS ISSUE

As announced in both February and March 2007 issues, the format of the datacubes containing seasonally adjustment factors has changed to align with the current standard of excel spreadsheets. The new format is available as Tables 13.



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Peter Harper
Acting Australian Statistician

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TIME SERIES DATA

TIME SERIES SPREADSHEETS

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:
 - 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 and Forward Factors for 12 months, By Purpose and Lender: Australia (from January 1985)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

The total value of owner occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 3.5% (seasonally adjusted), while the trend series rose 1.2%.

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

PERSONAL FINANCE

In seasonally adjusted terms, the value of total personal finance commitments fell by 0.4% in April 2007 compared with March 2007. This decrease was due to a fall in revolving credit commitments (down 3.0%), offset by a rise in fixed lending commitments (up 2.6%).

In trend terms, the value of total personal finance fell 0.2% in April 2007. The trend series for revolving credit commitments fell 0.8%, while fixed lending commitments rose 0.6%.

In original terms, fixed lending commitments decreased by \$526m (down 15.8%) in April 2007 compared with March 2007.

Movements in the original series contributing to this decrease were:

- Other, down \$176m (18.8%),
- Total motor vehicles, down \$159m (18.2%),
- Refinancing, down \$75m (11.0%)

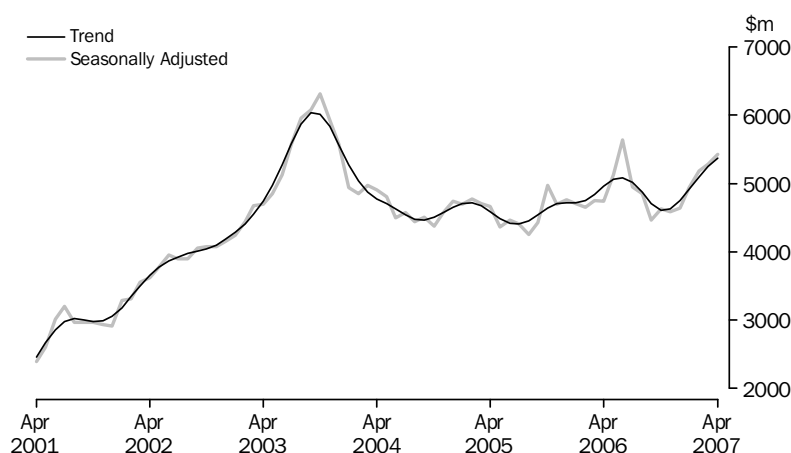
COMMERCIAL FINANCE

The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments fell by 16.8% in April 2007. This decrease was due to a fall in revolving credit commitments (down 37.9%), which was partially offset by an increase in fixed lending commitments (up 5.9%).

The trend series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose 1.0% in April 2007. This was due to a rise in revolving credit commitments (up 3.6%), which was partially offset by a decrease in fixed lending commitments (down 0.6%).

The value of purchases of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale (seasonally adjusted) rose 2.7% in April 2007, after an increase of 2.0% in March 2007. The trend series rose 2.4% in April 2007.

PURCHASE OF DWELLINGS BY INDIVIDUALS FOR RENT OR RESALE



LEASE FINANCE

The value of lease finance commitments (seasonally adjusted) increased by 2.2% in April 2007. The trend series for lease finance commitments rose by 2.1%.

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									
2006									
April	11 935	415	2 392	3 501	5 893	16 233	7 787	24 021	430
May	15 771	548	3 354	4 055	7 410	25 554	9 045	34 599	634
June	14 688	516	3 474	4 070	7 544	27 855	15 393	43 247	750
July	14 240	475	2 928	3 425	6 354	21 363	11 177	32 540	521
August	15 140	501	3 214	3 622	6 836	24 828	11 872	36 700	518
September	13 636	446	2 932	3 386	6 318	20 744	16 330	37 074	497
October	14 099	475	3 028	3 650	6 679	23 623	14 153	37 776	508
November	15 077	499	3 266	3 421	6 687	20 684	13 729	34 413	497
December	13 402	438	2 846	3 188	6 034	23 382	13 800	37 181	583
2007									
January	11 836	387	2 724	3 286	6 010	19 370	7 741	27 111	374
February	13 138	439	2 886	3 089	5 974	20 171	15 764	35 935	482
March	15 633	494	3 328	3 668	6 996	20 262	23 901	44 164	602
April	13 954	430	2 801	3 117	5 918	18 796	11 663	30 460	494
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2006									
April	13 487	466	2 813	3 781	6 594	20 110	9 195	29 304	534
May	14 047	490	3 062	3 702	6 763	21 992	10 653	32 645	595
June	14 110	483	3 186	3 538	6 724	22 060	11 499	33 559	540
July	14 182	491	3 039	3 389	6 428	20 949	11 233	32 182	513
August	14 014	491	3 052	3 414	6 466	23 352	10 615	33 968	510
September	13 791	459	3 020	3 396	6 416	21 437	17 226	38 663	504
October	13 966	462	3 004	3 721	6 726	22 731	15 182	37 913	522
November	13 928	465	3 067	3 333	6 400	21 381	11 976	33 356	525
December	14 100	472	3 039	3 331	6 370	21 393	11 541	32 934	554
2007									
January	14 295	467	3 018	3 781	6 799	24 515	11 040	35 555	455
February	14 464	458	3 056	3 568	6 623	24 050	17 811	41 861	564
March	14 694	449	3 075	3 484	6 559	21 102	22 765	43 866	569
April	15 209	464	3 155	3 380	6 534	22 348	14 133	36 481	582
TREND									
2006									
April	13 658	474	2 956	3 701	6 657	21 918	10 636	32 555	560
May	13 850	481	3 003	3 659	6 663	21 885	10 585	32 471	550
June	13 982	484	3 041	3 589	6 630	21 933	10 758	32 691	538
July	14 032	484	3 064	3 512	6 575	21 912	11 093	33 005	528
August	14 014	480	3 066	3 455	6 521	21 886	11 295	33 181	520
September	13 972	475	3 053	3 438	6 490	21 989	11 386	33 375	514
October	13 946	470	3 034	3 460	6 494	22 183	11 522	33 705	512
November	13 991	466	3 026	3 495	6 521	22 363	11 872	34 235	515
December	14 123	464	3 035	3 521	6 556	22 566	12 467	35 033	522
2007									
January	14 311	462	3 049	3 528	6 577	22 700	13 167	35 867	531
February	14 519	461	3 066	3 524	6 589	22 758	13 855	36 613	542
March	14 728	459	3 085	3 510	6 595	22 740	14 430	37 170	555
April	14 911	458	3 104	3 481	6 585	22 592	14 949	37 541	566

(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
2006										
April	9 472	277	1 520	666	11 935	4 647	240	212	794	5 893
May	12 546	413	2 063	748	15 771	6 025	322	274	789	7 410
June	11 758	344	1 900	687	14 688	6 120	295	281	848	7 544
July	11 437	333	1 777	694	14 240	5 047	279	252	776	6 354
August	11 972	412	1 996	761	15 140	5 563	283	270	721	6 836
September	10 870	345	1 698	723	13 636	4 955	272	256	835	6 318
October	11 147	351	1 882	718	14 099	5 347	274	273	785	6 679
November	12 087	366	1 941	684	15 077	5 199	319	265	904	6 687
December	10 924	276	1 581	620	13 402	4 744	257	239	794	6 034
2007										
January	9 610	272	1 413	541	11 836	4 505	255	275	975	6 010
February	10 463	335	1 732	608	13 138	4 708	276	260	731	5 974
March	12 415	376	2 146	697	15 633	5 489	318	287	903	6 996
April	11 108	320	1 889	637	13 954	4 611	258	238	811	5 918

(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
2006										
April	20 830	np	323	np	24 021	135	112	90	92	430
May	np	np	407	np	34 599	205	191	115	123	634
June	np	np	432	np	43 247	316	158	139	137	750
July	28 311	np	347	np	32 540	154	163	86	117	521
August	31 765	np	403	np	36 700	173	132	99	115	518
September	33 818	np	384	np	37 074	174	130	85	108	497
October	34 672	np	380	np	37 776	169	141	87	111	508
November	29 537	np	402	np	34 413	156	134	91	115	497
December	32 135	np	382	np	37 181	244	145	79	115	583
2007										
January	24 266	np	357	np	27 111	127	99	66	82	374
February	29 291	np	445	np	35 935	181	116	74	111	482
March	np	np	424	np	44 164	218	172	82	129	602
April	26 004	np	429	np	30 460	178	132	76	109	494

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
2006									
April	225	351	636	342	32	255	540	588	2 392
May	312	442	831	447	44	373	838	822	3 354
June	327	431	829	453	39	349	989	815	3 474
July	284	404	753	376	35	318	725	722	2 928
August	312	445	832	412	39	362	812	757	3 214
September	296	412	774	372	42	301	718	724	2 932
October	303	438	812	389	47	319	697	765	3 028
November	319	426	821	385	55	360	756	888	3 266
December	278	356	700	383	38	295	623	807	2 846
2007									
January	314	426	808	336	31	273	575	700	2 724
February	314	414	799	387	37	302	569	791	2 886
March	342	451	872	441	43	364	675	933	3 328
April	272	366	713	403	37	291	601	757	2 801

(a) Includes motorcycles and other motor vehicles.

(b) Includes alterations and additions.

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

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

Month	NEW AND INCREASED CREDIT LIMITS			CANCELLATIONS AND REDUCTIONS	CREDIT AT END OF MONTH	
	Secured	Unsecured	Total	Total	Total limits(a)	Credit used
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2006						
April	1 286	2 215	3 501	1 464	214 801	102 382
May	1 803	2 253	4 055	2 492	216 448	103 475
June	2 128	1 941	4 070	1 856	218 624	104 779
July	1 647	1 779	3 425	1 880	220 150	104 554
August	1 759	1 863	3 622	1 676	222 150	104 650
September	1 630	1 756	3 386	1 642	223 899	104 718
October	1 632	2 018	3 650	1 807	225 745	104 976
November	1 579	1 842	3 421	1 617	227 655	105 520
December	1 553	1 636	3 188	1 368	229 489	106 321
2007						
January	1 360	1 926	3 286	1 492	231 280	106 441
February	1 307	1 781	3 089	1 432	232 943	107 582
March	1 710	1 958	3 668	1 565	235 049	107 851
April	1 484	1 632	3 117	1 408	236 739	108 689

(a) This figure sometimes reflects 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
2006								
April	903	5 521	579	1 469	1 127	6 634	16 233	44 054
May	1 689	8 057	856	1 892	1 594	11 467	25 554	45 350
June	1 728	9 543	778	2 058	4 424	9 323	27 855	44 690
July	1 141	6 658	758	1 660	2 181	8 965	21 363	42 717
August	1 758	7 241	901	1 815	1 670	11 443	24 828	47 281
September	2 697	6 462	np	1 605	1 808	np	20 744	39 843
October	1 515	6 637	797	1 407	2 887	10 380	23 623	39 839
November	1 868	7 745	1 057	1 366	1 572	7 075	20 684	39 616
December	2 124	6 912	579	1 383	2 932	9 452	23 382	42 632
2007								
January	999	6 194	833	1 140	1 585	8 619	19 370	42 020
February	1 046	6 988	np	1 495	1 643	np	20 171	39 591
March	1 822	7 791	1 047	1 281	1 251	7 071	20 262	42 876
April	878	7 072	801	1 161	1 379	7 504	18 796	40 804

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

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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(a)	Credit used at end of month
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2006						
April	430	673	7 787	5 954	298 544	161 653
May	634	692	9 045	7 392	300 143	163 613
June	750	505	15 393	9 635	305 764	165 120
July	521	499	11 177	9 430	307 243	165 629
August	518	516	11 872	7 019	312 045	169 715
September	497	511	16 330	8 187	320 261	173 923
October	508	513	14 153	8 950	325 387	175 844
November	497	530	13 729	8 631	330 451	176 555
December	583	531	13 800	8 405	335 840	176 008
2007						
January	374	508	7 741	7 629	335 982	178 887
February	482	516	15 764	6 795	344 906	185 846
March	602	526	23 901	16 098	352 625	188 286
April	494	539	11 663	5 850	358 528	194 184

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

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	Alterations and additions	Total(b)	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2006									
April	856	651	10 428	415	32	469	4 237	429	17 517
May	1 163	860	13 748	548	44	503	5 874	518	23 258
June	1 160	767	12 760	516	39	498	6 290	612	22 643
July	1 143	726	12 372	475	35	643	4 842	439	20 675
August	1 256	748	13 136	501	39	500	5 211	454	21 847
September	1 061	645	11 930	446	42	580	4 418	598	19 720
October	1 091	661	12 348	475	47	371	4 469	409	19 869
November	1 124	720	13 234	499	55	396	4 911	613	21 552
December	984	644	11 774	438	38	792	4 388	651	19 708
2007									
January	898	587	10 351	387	31	318	4 110	551	17 233
February	947	710	11 481	439	37	432	4 678	881	19 606
March	1 105	850	13 679	494	43	650	5 594	483	22 896
April	960	680	12 315	430	37	264	5 098	503	20 286
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2006									
April	985	724	11 778	466	36	530	4 739	520	19 778
May	1 022	758	12 268	490	41	502	5 131	480	20 692
June	1 087	742	12 281	483	39	449	5 643	478	21 203
July	1 064	720	12 397	491	39	591	4 957	441	20 700
August	1 098	710	12 206	491	39	494	4 848	456	20 343
September	1 066	668	12 056	459	42	535	4 465	631	19 924
October	1 077	679	12 211	462	49	409	4 628	419	19 933
November	1 082	686	12 161	465	48	473	4 590	572	20 076
December	1 077	641	12 382	472	38	631	4 647	587	20 475
2007									
January	1 095	721	12 479	467	36	485	4 940	692	20 915
February	1 079	755	12 630	458	38	464	5 187	975	21 587
March	1 084	781	12 829	449	38	510	5 290	492	21 472
April	1 070	743	13 396	464	40	315	5 434	587	22 049
TREND									
2006									
April	1 017	720	11 920	474	39	580	4 965	476	20 192
May	1 028	733	12 089	481	39	549	5 069	481	20 468
June	1 043	734	12 205	484	39	520	5 092	481	20 598
July	1 058	723	12 251	484	40	501	5 020	481	20 559
August	1 071	705	12 239	480	42	495	4 873	481	20 385
September	1 079	686	12 207	475	43	498	4 713	498	20 199
October	1 082	676	12 188	470	44	506	4 612	538	20 115
November	1 083	678	12 230	466	43	510	4 628	589	20 226
December	1 082	692	12 348	464	41	508	4 756	635	20 528
2007									
January	1 082	712	12 517	462	40	499	4 925	667	20 905
February	1 082	732	12 705	461	38	480	5 093	682	21 274
March	1 081	751	12 896	459	38	452	5 251	681	21 608
April	1 079	765	13 068	458	37	427	5 377	677	21 887

(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
2006								
April	225	351	30	30	636	525	217	1 378
May	312	442	38	40	831	707	287	1 825
June	327	431	35	36	829	765	305	1 898
July	284	404	19	47	753	622	252	1 627
August	312	445	24	52	832	658	251	1 741
September	296	412	22	44	774	613	248	1 635
October	303	438	23	48	812	651	249	1 711
November	319	426	23	53	821	676	244	1 741
December	278	356	21	44	700	636	263	1 598
2007								
January	314	426	20	48	808	510	179	1 498
February	314	414	21	49	799	614	212	1 626
March	342	451	24	55	872	681	263	1 815
April	272	366	21	54	713	665	208	1 586

(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
2006								
April	137	38	11	3	21	2	5	217
May	176	55	17	5	24	4	6	287
June	189	52	19	7	22	8	8	305
July	165	47	15	5	12	2	6	252
August	164	46	16	5	9	3	7	251
September	168	43	14	4	11	3	6	248
October	157	42	18	11	11	4	6	249
November	162	42	10	9	14	2	6	244
December	193	38	11	4	10	2	4	263
2007								
January	125	32	9	2	6	1	4	179
February	146	40	12	4	7	2	2	212
March	178	46	14	4	9	2	10	263
April	142	39	12	3	7	2	5	208

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

<i>Month</i>	<u>COMMERCIAL FINANCE(a)</u>			<u>LEASE FINANCE</u>	<u>ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FINANCE</u>
	<i>Transport equipment(b)</i>	<i>Other plant and equipment</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2006					
April	94	850	944	213	1 157
May	87	1 098	1 185	346	1 531
June	99	1 194	1 293	446	1 739
July	66	972	1 038	268	1 306
August	86	1 071	1 157	267	1 424
September	87	905	992	249	1 240
October	77	679	756	259	1 015
November	108	582	690	253	943
December	99	649	748	321	1 068
2007					
January	181	449	630	195	825
February	77	804	880	270	1 150
March	100	500	600	339	940
April	82	414	496	286	782

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

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

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

	<i>Transport equipment (a)</i>	<i>Construction and earthmoving equipment</i>	<i>Agricultural machinery and equipment</i>	<i>Manu- facturing 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>
<i>Month</i>	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2006									
April	12	24	10	10	55	46	12	43	213
May	22	38	22	62	80	54	18	51	346
June	23	44	26	17	102	120	34	80	446
July	11	28	7	14	91	58	14	44	268
August	10	32	14	10	71	55	22	51	267
September	6	28	8	10	73	56	15	52	249
October	12	19	12	12	84	56	18	47	259
November	9	32	10	15	59	62	16	48	253
December	10	44	10	18	84	51	28	76	321
2007									
January	8	27	11	13	42	35	13	46	195
February	10	36	11	11	60	60	33	50	270
March	11	49	9	14	86	62	19	90	339
April	16	36	11	8	48	53	34	79	286

(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 Details 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)
 - Other Registered Financial Corporations. (RFCs).

COVERAGE

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COVERAGE *continued*

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

SOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

REVISIONS

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

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

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

continued

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

TREND ESTIMATES

21 Smoothing seasonally adjusted series reduces the impact of the irregular component of the seasonally adjusted series and creates trend estimates. These trend estimates are derived by applying a 13 term Henderson-weighted moving average to all but the last six months of the respective seasonally adjusted series. Trend series are created for the last six months by applying surrogates of the Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. For further information, refer to *Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series—Monitoring Trends: An Overview* (cat. no. 1349.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on Canberra (02) 6252 6345 or by email at <timeseries@abs.gov.au>.

22 While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 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. Percentage changes presented in the commentary are based on unrounded data and may differ slightly from percentage changes calculated from the rounded data presented in the tables 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) web site. For more information, contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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

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

GLOSSARY

Agricultural machinery and equipment	Includes tractors, tillage implements, seeding, planting and fertilising equipment, agricultural mowers, harvesters, etc.
Alterations and additions	Comprises all structural and non-structural changes which are integral to the functional and structural design of a dwelling. Examples are garages, carports, pergolas, reroofing, recladding, etc. Alterations and additions do not include swimming pools, ongoing repairs, or maintenance and home improvements which do not involve building work.
Commitment	Is a firm offer of finance. It either has been, or is normally expected to be, accepted. Commitments accepted and cancelled in the same month are included. Commitments to non-residents are excluded.
Construction and earth moving equipment	Includes concrete mixers and pumpers, dozers, graders, mobile cranes, crawler tractors, dumpers, road rollers, earth packers, scarifiers, rippers, etc.
Construction of dwellings	Comprises commitments made to individuals to finance, by way of progress payments, the construction of owner occupied dwellings.
Debt consolidation	For personal finance, comprises commitments whose principle purpose is to consolidate and pay out amounts owing by the borrower to third parties.
Dwelling	Is a single self-contained place of residence such as a detached or semidetached house, a terrace house, a flat, home unit, town house, etc. which includes bathing and cooking facilities.
Electronic data processing equipment	Includes computers, computer peripherals, data entry devices, word processing machines, etc.
Established dwelling	Is a dwelling that has been completed for 12 months or more prior to the lodgement of a loan application, or has been previously occupied.
Finance lease	Refers to the leasing or hiring of tangible assets under an agreement, other than a hire purchase agreement, which substantially transfers from the lessor to the lessee all the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the asset without transferring the legal ownership.
Fixed loans	Generally involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ a commitment for a fixed amount for a fixed period for a specific purpose■ a schedule of repayments over a fixed period■ repayments which reduce the liability of the borrower but do not act to make further finance available.
Heavy trucks	Comprises all vehicles with a gross combination mass rating in excess of 3.5 tonnes, including prime movers registered without trailers.
Light trucks	Comprises vehicles constructed primarily for the carriage of goods which do not exceed 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass such as utilities, panel vans, trucks, cab-chassis, forward control vans and four-wheel drives used to carry goods.
Manufacturing equipment	Includes all plant and equipment used in the manufacture of goods except motor vehicles such as forklifts, work trucks and tractors.
Motor cars and station wagons	Includes cars, station wagons, four-wheel drive and forward control passenger vehicles with up to nine seats (including the driver).
Motorcycles	Includes two and three wheeled motorcycles and mopeds, scooters and motorcycles with side cars.
New dwelling	Is a dwelling that has been completed within 12 months of the lodgement of a loan application, and the borrower will be the first occupant.
Office machines	Includes telephone systems (including PABX equipment), facsimile machines, cash registers, photocopiers, etc.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Purpose	Of the loan is that specified by the borrower. Where possible multiple purpose loans are split and each component is reported in the appropriate purpose category. Otherwise the whole loan is classified to the major purpose.
Refinancing	For personal and commercial finance, represents a commitment to refinance an existing loan. For secured housing finance, only those loans where the refinancing lender is not the original lender and the security is unchanged are included. The refinancing of a loan to fund a change of residence is treated as a new lending commitment.
Revolving credit	Generally has the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ a commitment for a credit or borrowing limit is given for a specific period after which the commitment is reviewed■ the extent of the borrowing used at any time during the period may be for any amount up to the authorised limit■ repayments (other than of charges and interest) made during the period reduce the extent of the borrowing used and thereby increase the amount of unused credit available up to the authorised limit. Examples include credit cards, lines of credit and approved overdrafts.
Secured credit limits	Includes overdrafts, lines of credit, credit cards, etc. backed by a mortgage or other assets owned by the borrower.
Secured housing finance	Comprises all secured commitments to individuals for the construction or purchase of dwellings for owner occupation, regardless of type of security. Commitments for housing that will be occupied by persons other than the owner(s) are excluded.
Total credit limits at end of month	Comprises total approved credit limits available at the end of the reference month. In principle, this can be derived by adding new and increased lending commitments during the month less cancellations and reductions of credit limits during the month to the balance of credit limits at the end of the previous month. In practice, however, revisions and other adjustments (such as the transfer of an existing fixed credit facility) will mean that such a derivation is inexact.
Wholesale finance	Comprises finance for the purchase of goods by retailers and wholesalers.

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