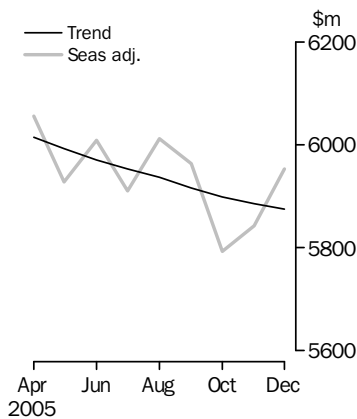


LENDING FINANCE

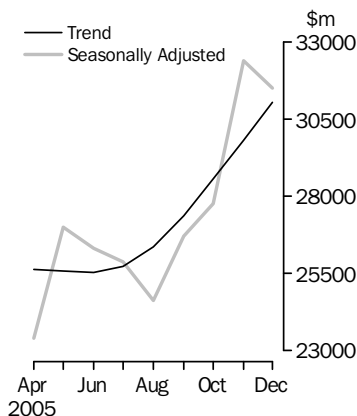
AUSTRALIA

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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 or Michael Abbondante on Canberra (02) 6252 6707.

KEY FIGURES

	Nov 2005 \$m	Dec 2005 \$m	Nov 2005 to Dec 2005 % change
TREND ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	12 823	12 984	1.3
Personal finance	5 886	5 874	-0.2
Commercial finance	29 806	31 048	4.2
Lease finance	546	553	1.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	12 842	12 980	1.1
Personal finance	5 843	5 953	1.9
Commercial finance	32 383	31 508	-2.7
Lease finance	532	562	5.6

KEY POINTS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

DECEMBER 2005 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 2005:

- The total value of owner-occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 1.1% (seasonally adjusted), while the trend series rose 1.3%.

PERSONAL FINANCE

DECEMBER 2005 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 2005:

- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total personal finance commitments rose by 1.9%. This increase was due to a rise in fixed lending commitments (up 4.2%) more than offsetting a fall in revolving credit commitments (down 0.1%).
- The trend series for the value of total personal finance commitments fell by 0.2%. This decrease was due to a fall in revolving credit commitments (down 1.5%) more than offsetting an increase in fixed lending commitments (up 1.4%).

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

DECEMBER 2005 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 2005:

- The seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments fell by 2.7%. A strong decrease in fixed lending commitments (down 10.3%) more than offset a rise in revolving credit commitments (up 15.4%).
- The trend series for the value of total commercial finance commitments rose by 4.2%. Fixed lending commitments increased 4.8%, while revolving credit rose by 3.0%.

LEASE FINANCE

DECEMBER 2005 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 2005:

- Lease finance commitments (seasonally adjusted) rose by 5.6% after a revised fall of 0.4% was recorded for November. The lease finance trend series rose by 1.2%, the sixth consecutive monthly increase.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
January 2006	14 March 2006
February 2006	11 April 2006
March 2006	16 May 2006
April 2006	9 June 2006
May 2006	12 July 2006
June 2006	11 August 2006



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Revisions to previously provided estimates from some lenders resulted in significant revisions to fixed lending commitments for Personal Finance in November 2005. This affects published estimates for all states and territories and estimates for banks.



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 December 2006

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

The total value of commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 1.1% (seasonally adjusted) in December 2005 compared with November 2005, while the trend series rose 1.3%

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

PERSONAL FINANCE

In seasonally adjusted terms, the value of total personal finance commitments rose by 1.9% in December 2005 compared with November 2005. Fixed lending rose by 4.2%, while revolving credit fell by 0.1%.

In trend terms, the value of total personal finance commitments fell by 0.2% in December 2005 compared with November 2005, the thirteenth consecutive monthly decrease. The fall was mainly due to the fall in revolving credit commitments (down 1.5%). Fixed lending commitments increased by 1.4% in December, following revised trend growth over the previous four months. This reflects revised seasonally adjusted growth in November and the strength in the seasonally adjusted series in December.

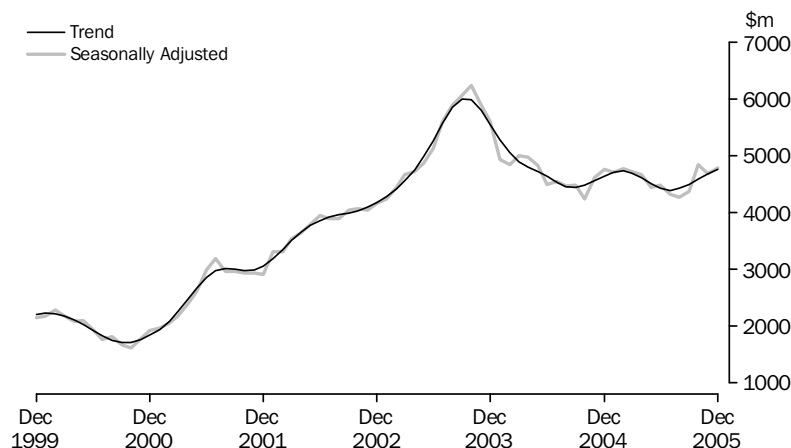
COMMERCIAL FINANCE

The volatile seasonally adjusted series for the value of total commercial finance commitments fell by 2.7% in December 2005 compared with November 2005, following a rise of 16.7% in November. The decrease was mainly due to the fall in fixed lending commitments (down 10.3%), after a strong increase of 31.0% in November. Revolving credit commitments increased by 15.4%. The strength in revolving credit commitments was mainly due to commitments to the finance and insurance industry, which contributed \$1,903 million to the \$3,839 million increase in total revolving credit commitments (in original terms).

This slight decrease in the seasonally adjusted commercial finance series resulted in a slight easing of the strong growth in the trend series for commercial finance commitments (up 4.2% in December 2005 compared to November 2005). Strong growth was recorded for both fixed lending commitments (up 4.8%) and revolving credit commitments (up 3.0%).

The value of purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale (seasonally adjusted) series rose by 2.3% in December 2005 compared with November 2005, after a fall of 3.4% in November 2005. The trend series rose by 1.7%, the fifth consecutive monthly increase.

PURCHASE OF DWELLINGS BY INDIVIDUALS FOR RENT OR RESALE



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LEASE FINANCE

The value of lease finance commitments (seasonally adjusted) increased by 5.6% in December 2005 compared with November 2005. The lease finance trend rose by 1.2%, the sixth consecutive monthly increase.

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									
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	9 888	25 098	503
April	11 624	484	2 573	3 117	5 690	16 403	5 898	22 301	508
May	12 444	517	2 810	3 272	6 081	18 936	8 721	27 656	534
June	12 320	508	2 783	3 965	6 748	20 129	13 359	33 488	661
July	11 752	463	2 500	3 586	6 085	18 511	8 437	26 948	553
August	12 808	452	2 725	3 578	6 303	16 361	9 402	25 763	554
September	12 939	462	2 687	3 374	6 061	17 459	9 063	26 523	582
October	12 249	444	2 521	3 026	5 547	17 480	9 647	27 126	501
November	13 793	480	2 798	3 390	6 188	22 405	10 359	32 764	515
December	12 784	437	2 747	3 265	6 012	23 360	14 198	37 557	599
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2004									
December	11 289	462	2 784	3 369	6 153	17 224	8 256	25 480	514
2005									
January	11 077	455	2 669	3 527	6 196	16 045	8 736	24 781	528
February	11 694	475	2 703	3 450	6 153	16 600	9 360	25 960	546
March	11 815	481	2 679	3 311	5 989	15 868	10 673	26 541	504
April	11 688	493	2 700	3 355	6 055	17 603	5 802	23 405	555
May	11 579	489	2 685	3 243	5 928	17 323	9 673	26 996	544
June	11 715	483	2 599	3 410	6 009	16 179	10 137	26 316	488
July	11 840	480	2 523	3 388	5 911	17 354	8 526	25 880	520
August	12 030	455	2 617	3 395	6 013	15 944	8 683	24 627	534
September	12 497	455	2 629	3 334	5 963	17 288	9 409	26 697	555
October	12 733	446	2 640	3 153	5 793	17 438	10 320	27 758	535
November	12 842	439	2 676	3 167	5 843	22 843	9 540	32 383	532
December	12 980	452	2 789	3 164	5 953	20 500	11 008	31 508	562
TREND									
2004									
December	11 124	460	2 806	3 436	6 243	16 790	9 054	25 843	536
2005									
January	11 345	464	2 754	3 429	6 184	16 665	8 861	25 525	532
February	11 518	472	2 713	3 398	6 111	16 619	8 801	25 420	530
March	11 620	481	2 680	3 369	6 050	16 655	8 839	25 494	529
April	11 667	486	2 656	3 358	6 014	16 734	8 883	25 618	528
May	11 706	486	2 635	3 357	5 992	16 697	8 873	25 570	526
June	11 783	482	2 614	3 357	5 971	16 618	8 902	25 520	525
July	11 926	473	2 600	3 353	5 954	16 716	9 016	25 732	526
August	12 138	464	2 603	3 334	5 937	17 119	9 242	26 360	530
September	12 386	456	2 623	3 293	5 916	17 848	9 514	27 362	535
October	12 619	449	2 654	3 244	5 898	18 791	9 779	28 570	541
November	12 823	445	2 688	3 198	5 886	19 780	10 026	29 806	546
December	12 984	442	2 725	3 150	5 874	20 721	10 327	31 048	553

(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										
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
April	9 197	321	1 484	622	11 624	4 472	269	271	677	5 690
May	9 798	316	1 696	633	12 444	4 735	284	302	760	6 081
June	9 556	284	1 870	611	12 320	5 100	256	307	1 085	6 748
July	9 175	286	1 697	594	11 752	4 772	246	266	802	6 085
August	9 975	303	1 921	609	12 808	5 073	253	306	671	6 303
September	10 113	291	1 903	633	12 939	4 681	265	275	839	6 061
October	9 646	292	1 709	602	12 249	4 340	243	268	696	5 547
November	10 962	324	1 874	634	13 793	4 944	270	291	682	6 188
December	10 239	269	1 660	615	12 784	4 756	273	274	708	6 012

(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										
December	np	967	420	np	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	25 098	174	127	106	97	503
April	18 967	568	340	2 426	22 301	181	131	105	91	508
May	24 274	260	368	2 754	27 656	193	136	104	101	534
June	np	558	455	np	33 488	247	152	146	116	661
July	np	503	311	np	26 948	196	163	99	95	553
August	np	755	390	np	25 763	197	148	109	101	554
September	np	360	419	np	26 523	215	161	100	106	582
October	22 944	np	374	np	27 126	184	132	94	90	501
November	27 999	560	400	3 805	32 764	202	118	105	np	515
December	32 025	1 166	415	3 952	37 557	224	142	102	131	599

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
2004									
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
April	286	453	797	348	38	306	462	621	2 573
May	312	477	848	386	37	316	548	675	2 810
June	323	476	859	379	34	328	508	676	2 783
July	288	442	786	318	32	296	446	622	2 500
August	318	521	906	370	34	267	491	658	2 725
September	301	472	839	365	35	281	488	678	2 687
October	277	417	760	352	31	274	482	623	2 521
November	310	433	822	390	42	311	548	685	2 798
December	291	388	749	366	37	276	594	724	2 747

(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
2004						
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
April	1 709	1 409	3 117	1 573	202 141	97 496
May	1 772	1 500	3 272	1 628	203 756	98 276
June	2 188	1 777	3 965	1 741	206 499	100 784
July	1 779	1 807	3 586	2 425	207 902	101 069
August	1 778	1 800	3 578	2 034	209 455	100 942
September	1 677	1 697	3 374	1 555	211 187	101 449
October	1 487	1 539	3 026	1 433	212 766	102 244
November	1 610	1 780	3 390	1 743	214 518	103 410
December	1 636	1 629	3 265	1 547	213 188	101 753

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

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								
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
April	1 466	6 112	1 172	1 160	1 448	5 046	16 403	32 289
May	1 723	6 083	892	1 162	1 663	7 413	18 936	33 568
June	1 861	6 730	823	1 751	2 033	6 931	20 129	35 581
July	1 766	6 015	890	1 529	1 823	6 488	18 511	37 913
August	1 395	7 761	np	1 168	1 360	np	16 361	36 858
September	1 513	6 391	777	1 243	1 293	6 243	17 459	37 296
October	1 198	6 412	1 055	1 370	1 124	6 321	17 480	36 007
November	1 169	7 006	1 034	1 213	1 851	10 132	22 405	35 318
December	2 647	6 660	685	1 671	2 025	9 672	23 360	37 806

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

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						
December	581	np	10 447	7 133	248 693	123 775
2005						
January	404	np	6 247	4 440	250 833	123 732
February	461	np	7 831	6 002	254 019	127 495
March	503	np	9 888	5 599	258 329	128 536
April	508	np	5 898	8 379	255 058	130 750
May	534	np	8 721	5 224	258 589	132 144
June	661	608	13 359	6 939	264 539	134 031
July	553	np	8 437	7 117	265 859	135 147
August	554	626	9 402	7 773	269 242	137 769
September	582	680	9 063	7 034	271 237	139 488
October	501	np	9 647	12 121	268 783	138 374
November	515	644	10 359	5 865	273 319	143 367
December	599	608	14 198	6 812	281 576	145 638

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

FINANCE COMMITMENTS, For Housing (Owner Occupation and Commercial)

	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE)				OWNER OCCUPATION (UNSECURED FINANCE)	COMMERCIAL FINANCE(a)			ALL HOUSING FINANCE
	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of established dwellings	Alterations and additions	Total(b)	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2004									
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
April	954	496	10 174	484	38	570	4 638	360	17 714
May	1 064	573	10 807	517	37	593	4 752	436	18 778
June	1 057	535	10 728	508	34	920	5 009	462	19 253
July	990	565	10 198	463	32	502	4 294	524	17 566
August	1 076	589	11 143	452	34	546	4 601	408	18 849
September	1 016	598	11 326	462	35	593	4 544	416	18 990
October	931	592	10 727	444	31	593	4 645	408	18 371
November	997	649	12 147	480	42	453	4 989	388	20 146
December	954	671	11 159	437	37	808	4 699	457	19 222
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2004									
December	957	481	9 851	463	43	502	4 759	486	17 543
2005									
January	966	477	9 635	454	43	524	4 712	430	17 241
February	986	483	10 225	475	41	614	4 779	580	18 184
March	985	500	10 330	481	42	513	4 721	430	18 002
April	1 000	507	10 181	493	38	653	4 667	423	17 963
May	980	530	10 070	489	35	586	4 445	387	17 522
June	971	520	10 224	484	33	698	4 489	383	17 801
July	939	551	10 350	480	34	520	4 331	498	17 703
August	966	563	10 501	454	34	534	4 268	404	17 724
September	971	589	10 937	456	36	597	4 382	435	18 402
October	949	637	11 147	446	34	535	4 848	440	19 036
November	954	627	11 261	439	36	490	4 684	337	18 828
December	979	632	11 369	453	36	690	4 791	406	19 356
TREND									
2004									
December	955	472	9 697	460	44	560	4 651	485	17 324
2005									
January	968	480	9 897	464	43	560	4 714	482	17 608
February	979	489	10 050	472	41	570	4 737	472	17 811
March	985	498	10 137	481	40	585	4 704	455	17 884
April	985	507	10 175	486	38	598	4 616	436	17 842
May	979	519	10 208	486	36	606	4 508	425	17 768
June	971	533	10 279	482	35	601	4 425	422	17 747
July	964	551	10 411	473	34	583	4 394	423	17 834
August	959	572	10 607	464	34	566	4 425	425	18 052
September	958	592	10 835	456	35	557	4 501	421	18 354
October	960	611	11 048	449	35	558	4 594	412	18 667
November	962	627	11 234	445	35	567	4 687	401	18 959
December	965	640	11 379	442	36	578	4 766	390	19 197

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

(b) Includes alterations and additions.

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

Month	PERSONAL FINANCE(a)					COMMERCIAL	LEASE	ALL VEHICLE
	New motor cars and station wagons	Used motor cars and station wagons	Motorcycles	Other motor vehicles	Total	FINANCE (a)	FINANCE	FINANCE
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2004								
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
April	286	453	24	34	797	571	256	1 625
May	312	477	25	35	848	624	276	1 747
June	323	476	24	36	859	753	305	1 917
July	288	442	22	34	786	610	263	1 659
August	318	521	29	38	906	690	278	1 874
September	301	472	29	37	839	711	267	1 818
October	277	417	31	34	760	615	239	1 613
November	310	433	40	38	822	649	260	1 730
December	291	388	37	34	749	655	286	1 690

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

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

<i>Month</i>	MOTOR CARS AND STATION WAGONS		LIGHT TRUCKS		HEAVY TRUCKS		OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES	ALL VEHICLES
	<i>New</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2004								
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
April	173	38	13	5	16	3	7	256
May	178	41	24	5	11	3	13	276
June	189	45	27	10	17	6	10	305
July	177	39	12	11	8	5	10	263
August	182	44	14	11	11	4	11	278
September	179	39	12	9	13	5	9	267
October	154	39	10	7	19	4	6	239
November	168	38	12	8	17	4	12	260
December	197	42	14	11	11	6	5	286

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					
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
April	86	503	589	252	841
May	98	439	538	259	796
June	131	866	997	356	1 353
July	92	826	919	290	1 208
August	83	395	478	276	755
September	136	396	532	315	847
October	73	682	756	262	1 018
November	79	485	564	255	819
December	253	763	1 016	313	1 329

(a) Excludes revolving credit.

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

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

<i>Month</i>	<i>Transport equipment (a)</i>	<i>Construction and earthmoving equipment</i>	<i>Agricultural machinery and equipment</i>	<i>Manufacturing equipment</i>	<i>Electronic data processing equipment</i>	<i>Office machines</i>	<i>Shop and office furniture, fittings and equipment</i>	<i>Other goods</i>	Total
<i>Month</i>	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2004									
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
April	7	39	10	15	74	45	15	46	252
May	7	33	17	20	64	55	16	47	259
June	10	33	24	40	86	52	36	76	356
July	7	25	11	29	102	61	11	44	290
August	6	38	9	25	73	53	23	49	276
September	6	42	12	30	79	69	27	50	315
October	6	19	14	18	74	55	26	48	262
November	10	35	16	27	49	56	21	42	255
December	11	50	14	21	58	76	27	57	313

(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 for data from our publications and information about the ABS.
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