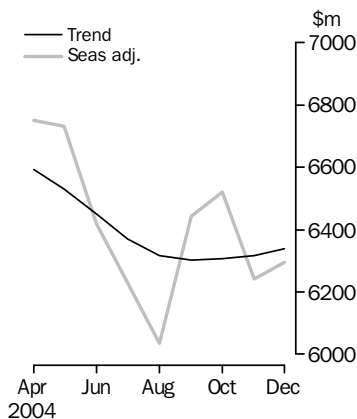


LENDING FINANCE

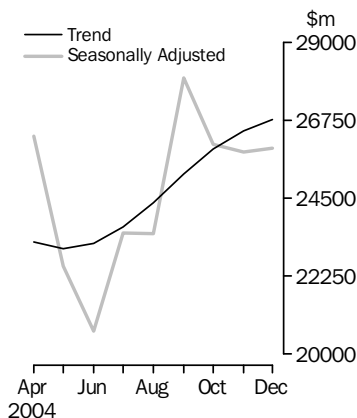
AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 15 FEB 2005

Personal finance



Commercial finance



KEY FIGURES

	Nov 2004 \$m	Dec 2004 \$m	Nov 2004 to Dec 2004 % change
TREND ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	10 662	10 808	1.4
Personal finance	6 317	6 337	0.3
Commercial finance	26 447	26 778	1.3
Lease finance	547	551	0.8
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES			
Housing finance for owner occupation	10 719	11 018	2.8
Personal finance	6 241	6 294	0.9
Commercial finance	25 841	25 944	0.4
Lease finance	543	522	-3.8

KEY POINTS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

- The total value of owner-occupied housing commitments excluding alterations and additions increased by 2.8% (seasonally adjusted) in December 2004. The trend series increased by 1.4%.

PERSONAL FINANCE

- The seasonally adjusted series for total personal finance commitments rose by 0.9% in December 2004. Fixed lending decreased by 4.6% while revolving credit commitments increased by 5.8%.
- The total personal finance trend series increased by 0.3% in December 2004, the third consecutive increase after ten monthly decreases.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

- The total commercial finance series (seasonally adjusted) rose by 0.4% in December 2004. Fixed lending increased by 4.6% while revolving credit decreased by 7.4%.
- The purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale (seasonally adjusted) series rose by 5.4% in December 2004, the second consecutive increase after a reported decrease of 7.9% in October.
- The trend series for total commercial finance increased by 1.3% in December 2004. The fixed lending rose by 2.7% and revolving credit trend series fell by 1.4%.

LEASE FINANCE

- Lease finance (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 3.8% in December 2004.
- The lease finance trend rose by 0.8% in December 2004, the seventh consecutive monthly increase.

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.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
January 2005	15 March 2005
February 2005	13 April 2005
March 2005	13 May 2005
April 2005	10 June 2005
May 2005	13 July 2005
June 2005	12 August 2005



EXPECTED CHANGES

Introduction of New Accounting Standards

The introduction of new accounting standards for businesses and government will occur over the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006. These standards may have impacts on data reported to the ABS. The changes will be introduced by business and government in accordance with their external reporting cycles, and thus there is no single cutover date. The ABS is preparing an information paper expected for publication by end of February which discusses the changes and the potential impacts on ABS statistics.

The series published in this publication are compiled in accordance with statistical standards, not accounting standards. In principle, therefore, there should be no breaks in series as a result the introduction of new accounting standards. In practice, the ABS expects that some data reported will change, and additional data quality assurance measures have been introduced to identify such cases. When a significant change is identified, the ABS will discuss the nature of the change with the data providers and where necessary, make adjustments on the basis of advice received. Where such adjustments are made, their nature and size will be noted on page 2 "changes this issue".

For this release there were no identified impacts or adjustments made.

Expected revisions

Following consultation with a number of data providers, revisions to a number of series in this publication have been advised to the ABS. We intend to incorporate these revisions into published statistics next month. These revisions will affect estimates of the levels of housing finance, but are unlikely to cause significant changes to percentage movements for key series.



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 2005

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

The total value of commitments excluding alterations and additions (seasonally adjusted) increased by 2.8% in December 2004. The trend series increased by 1.4%.

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

PERSONAL FINANCE

In seasonally adjusted terms, total personal finance increased to \$6,294 million (up 0.9%) in December 2004. Revolving credit commitments increased by 5.8% while fixed lending decreased by 4.6%. The trend series increased by 0.3%.

In original terms, revolving credit commitments increased by 1.6% in December 2004. Both secured and unsecured revolving credit increased by 1.6%.

In original terms, fixed lending commitments decreased by 8.2% (down \$252m) in December 2004. This was due mainly to decreases in total motor vehicles (down 15.2%) and other fixed lending (down 12.9%).

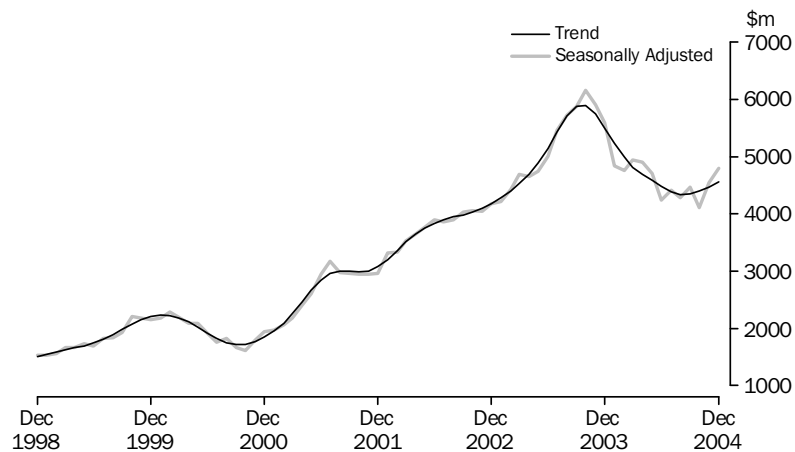
COMMERCIAL FINANCE

Total commercial finance series (seasonally adjusted) increased to \$25,944 million (up 0.4%) in December 2004. Fixed lending increased by 4.6% while revolving credit decreased by 7.4%. The trend series increased by 1.3%.

In original terms, fixed lending commitments increased by 14.4%. Large increases were recorded in other fixed lending (up 23.4%), refinancing (up 57.6%) and purchase of real property (up 5.1%). Wholesale finance decreased by 18.5%.

The seasonally adjusted purchase of dwellings for rent or resale by individuals series increased to \$4,790 million (up 5.4%) in December 2004. The trend series increased by 2.0% in December 2004, the fourth consecutive monthly increase after ten monthly decreases.

PURCHASE OF DWELLINGS BY INDIVIDUALS FOR RENT OR RESALE



LEASE FINANCE

Total lease finance series (seasonally adjusted) decreased to \$522 million (down 3.8%) in December 2004. The lease finance trend series grew by 0.8% in December 2004, the seventh 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									
2003									
December	10 611	495	2 866	3 890	6 755	20 648	10 127	30 775	569
2004									
January	7 894	391	2 417	3 209	5 626	11 290	6 067	17 358	364
February	8 759	529	2 645	3 196	5 841	12 774	6 101	18 875	437
March	10 768	618	3 117	3 999	7 115	16 706	7 151	23 857	562
April	9 544	510	2 620	3 654	6 274	14 132	9 987	24 119	456
May	10 323	500	2 827	3 915	6 742	17 006	5 872	22 878	464
June	10 458	511	3 090	4 290	7 380	17 984	8 531	26 515	603
July	10 562	495	3 003	3 573	6 576	16 997	8 756	25 753	520
August	10 497	478	2 909	3 213	6 122	15 760	8 395	24 155	521
September	10 624	487	2 947	3 491	6 438	15 929	12 228	28 157	593
October	10 045	439	2 820	3 537	6 357	17 457	7 713	25 171	503
November	11 397	488	3 070	3 518	6 587	16 479	9 330	25 809	519
December	11 270	456	2 818	3 574	6 392	18 849	10 267	29 116	581
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2003									
December	10 331	507	2 876	3 771	6 648	19 058	8 255	27 313	526
2004									
January	9 636	464	2 640	3 941	6 581	14 270	7 886	22 156	471
February	9 622	526	2 719	3 743	6 462	15 449	7 355	22 804	517
March	9 781	539	2 808	3 812	6 621	16 506	7 481	23 987	532
April	9 972	539	2 785	3 966	6 751	16 076	10 221	26 297	517
May	9 955	495	2 837	3 894	6 731	16 070	6 477	22 547	487
June	9 847	487	2 803	3 615	6 418	13 733	6 936	20 670	419
July	10 197	506	2 920	3 308	6 228	15 415	8 080	23 495	478
August	10 211	491	2 911	3 125	6 035	15 344	8 134	23 478	534
September	10 347	490	2 970	3 472	6 442	15 978	11 996	27 974	568
October	10 323	420	2 946	3 573	6 519	17 777	8 291	26 068	539
November	10 719	456	2 967	3 274	6 241	16 812	9 029	25 841	543
December	11 018	465	2 830	3 464	6 294	17 581	8 363	25 944	522
TREND									
2003									
December	10 261	522	2 814	3 869	6 683	16 645	7 868	24 513	550
2004									
January	9 985	514	2 779	3 872	6 651	16 416	7 960	24 376	532
February	9 805	513	2 757	3 881	6 639	16 131	7 974	24 105	515
March	9 747	515	2 757	3 869	6 627	15 825	7 851	23 676	499
April	9 794	516	2 780	3 813	6 593	15 514	7 736	23 249	487
May	9 893	514	2 816	3 715	6 531	15 295	7 756	23 052	483
June	9 996	506	2 858	3 592	6 450	15 227	7 973	23 200	486
July	10 097	494	2 893	3 478	6 371	15 345	8 335	23 680	495
August	10 209	481	2 917	3 400	6 318	15 645	8 723	24 368	511
September	10 348	471	2 933	3 369	6 301	16 152	9 050	25 203	528
October	10 505	462	2 936	3 371	6 308	16 687	9 234	25 921	540
November	10 662	455	2 931	3 386	6 317	17 157	9 290	26 447	547
December	10 808	449	2 922	3 416	6 337	17 618	9 160	26 778	551

(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
2003										
December	8 125	327	1 597	561	10 611	5 399	299	878	179	6 755
2004										
January	6 038	237	1 117	502	7 894	4 259	249	880	238	5 626
February	6 691	280	1 282	506	8 759	4 385	253	931	272	5 841
March	8 203	329	1 639	597	10 768	5 543	324	978	271	7 115
April	7 473	267	1 298	505	9 544	4 894	285	837	259	6 274
May	8 038	316	1 452	518	10 323	5 300	273	897	272	6 742
June	8 138	273	1 538	509	10 458	5 862	283	994	241	7 380
July	8 231	297	1 474	561	10 562	5 209	261	881	225	6 576
August	8 069	284	1 556	588	10 497	4 766	265	544	547	6 122
September	8 196	303	1 547	579	10 624	5 062	np	np	551	6 438
October	7 800	301	1 429	514	10 045	5 009	254	525	568	6 357
November	8 843	351	1 628	575	11 397	4 995	301	543	749	6 587
December	8 805	308	1 573	584	11 270	5 081	312	294	705	6 392

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
2003										
December	26 558	1 427	533	2 257	30 775	159	187	114	109	569
2004										
January	14 091	np	371	np	17 358	121	117	77	50	364
February	14 840	235	458	3 342	18 875	145	128	94	69	437
March	20 256	np	554	np	23 857	182	172	121	87	562
April	np	np	440	np	24 119	160	114	108	73	456
May	20 323	np	463	np	22 878	164	113	115	72	464
June	23 281	138	563	2 532	26 515	221	137	151	95	603
July	22 792	416	451	2 094	25 753	199	124	111	85	520
August	20 540	np	404	np	24 155	195	127	107	91	521
September	np	309	382	5 143	28 157	197	207	101	87	593
October	22 555	208	407	2 001	25 171	169	141	104	89	503
November	np	209	385	3 577	25 809	183	132	104	99	519
December	np	981	420	2 819	29 116	200	162	119	100	581

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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
2003									
December	328	458	859	370	52	204	603	778	2 866
2004									
January	305	458	829	258	38	199	473	620	2 417
February	329	472	884	302	47	240	469	703	2 645
March	376	535	1 009	364	56	288	560	840	3 117
April	307	446	832	320	47	236	460	725	2 620
May	321	463	877	367	46	261	529	747	2 827
June	373	504	980	382	47	244	606	831	3 090
July	367	500	962	366	44	240	595	795	3 003
August	352	503	957	376	48	224	566	737	2 909
September	348	506	964	354	48	234	558	788	2 947
October	323	474	905	346	39	245	521	764	2 820
November	349	513	970	373	53	276	594	803	3 070
December	300	457	823	365	48	263	620	700	2 818

(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
2003							
December	2 132	1 758	3 890	1 395	168 678	81 611	
2004							
January	1 618	1 591	3 209	1 213	170 727	82 610	
February	1 803	1 393	3 196	1 407	172 456	83 995	
March	2 177	1 821	3 999	1 416	174 827	85 183	
April	1 795	1 859	3 654	1 353	177 179	86 371	
May	2 001	1 914	3 915	2 157	183 562	88 714	
June	2 347	1 943	4 290	1 593	186 231	90 346	
July	2 100	1 473	3 573	1 384	188 400	92 492	
August	1 840	1 373	3 213	1 288	189 240	92 806	
September	1 982	1 510	3 491	1 608	191 118	94 189	
October	1 666	1 871	3 537	1 465	193 469	95 778	
November	1 926	1 591	3 518	1 403	195 870	95 968	
December	1 957	1 617	3 574	1 495	197 840	97 318	

(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
2003								
December	1 720	7 525	549	1 074	1 777	8 003	20 648	23 392
2004								
January	1 131	4 929	np	1 034	655	np	11 290	21 857
February	748	5 626	np	880	1 225	np	12 774	29 414
March	1 581	7 112	727	1 210	2 211	3 865	16 706	30 492
April	776	5 917	724	886	1 187	4 642	14 132	30 357
May	1 408	6 283	735	936	1 366	6 277	17 006	30 242
June	2 147	6 943	736	1 187	1 501	5 470	17 984	29 727
July	1 642	6 401	1 012	1 118	1 328	5 497	16 997	31 420
August	1 569	6 089	729	1 014	1 655	4 703	15 760	29 793
September	1 044	6 545	708	1 023	1 198	5 410	15 929	29 505
October	2 606	6 201	650	1 008	2 057	4 935	17 457	28 154
November	1 415	6 540	732	1 078	959	5 756	16 479	30 020
December	1 576	6 876	596	1 183	1 512	7 105	18 849	31 757

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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
2003						
December	569	372	10 127	9 210	223 826	112 111
2004						
January	364	431	6 067	5 579	224 271	112 719
February	437	447	6 101	6 561	224 419	112 003
March	562	472	7 151	6 958	224 210	111 504
April	456	414	9 987	5 733	228 575	114 781
May	464	434	5 872	5 212	228 977	113 802
June	603	442	8 531	6 210	231 286	117 488
July	520	745	8 756	5 533	234 396	117 051
August	521	709	8 395	6 673	233 920	117 578
September	593	755	12 228	5 937	240 836	119 314
October	503	636	7 713	6 912	241 711	121 972
November	519	707	9 330	6 494	243 324	121 283
December	581	np	10 267	7 224	246 814	122 753

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FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS (a), For Housing (Owner Occupation and Commercial)

	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE)				OWNER OCCUPATION (UNSECURED FINANCED)	COMMERCIAL FINANCE(b)			ALL HOUSING FINANCE
	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of established dwellings	Alterations and additions	Total(c)	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase for rent or resale by individuals	Purchase for rent or resale by others	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2003									
December	1 054	473	9 084	495	52	554	5 580	561	17 853
2004									
January	795	308	6 791	391	38	340	3 849	381	12 892
February	865	423	7 472	529	47	389	4 287	395	14 406
March	1 041	436	9 290	618	56	603	5 460	479	17 984
April	933	418	8 193	510	47	404	4 644	392	15 540
May	1 047	419	8 857	500	46	551	4 909	485	16 813
June	1 060	444	8 954	511	47	684	4 984	551	17 236
July	1 080	455	9 027	495	44	596	4 513	483	16 692
August	1 045	452	9 000	478	48	595	4 479	516	16 612
September	1 029	458	9 137	487	48	575	4 510	407	16 651
October	954	434	8 656	439	39	516	4 018	411	15 469
November	1 009	468	9 920	488	53	655	4 702	591	17 886
December	998	517	9 755	456	48	587	4 744	518	17 622
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (d)									
2003									
December	1 007	447	8 876	507	49	514	5 593	495	17 400
2004									
January	1 020	364	8 252	464	45	445	4 842	480	16 105
February	991	450	8 181	526	46	472	4 758	470	15 855
March	986	405	8 390	539	49	523	4 939	482	16 354
April	1 022	435	8 515	539	49	446	4 897	445	16 343
May	1 005	413	8 537	495	44	532	4 703	455	16 193
June	978	417	8 453	487	44	576	4 249	391	15 596
July	967	428	8 802	506	45	588	4 419	495	16 206
August	983	457	8 772	491	51	591	4 281	494	15 928
September	986	448	8 914	490	49	582	4 464	453	16 407
October	970	462	8 891	420	43	490	4 109	458	15 934
November	964	456	9 298	456	48	626	4 544	504	16 787
December	970	474	9 574	465	44	559	4 790	491	17 266
TREND (d)									
2003									
December	1 030	394	8 837	522	47	464	5 500	516	17 406
2004									
January	1 017	404	8 565	514	47	463	5 233	495	16 811
February	1 006	411	8 388	513	47	472	4 998	474	16 355
March	999	416	8 331	515	47	488	4 815	458	16 092
April	996	420	8 379	516	46	508	4 689	450	16 006
May	993	423	8 477	514	46	531	4 588	448	16 007
June	988	428	8 580	506	46	553	4 481	451	16 002
July	983	434	8 680	494	47	568	4 386	456	16 008
August	978	442	8 789	481	47	573	4 334	464	16 069
September	975	450	8 924	471	47	573	4 347	473	16 219
October	972	458	9 075	462	47	571	4 400	480	16 421
November	970	465	9 227	455	46	568	4 472	485	16 640
December	970	469	9 369	449	46	566	4 563	492	16 868

(a) Includes refinancing.

(b) Excludes revolving credit.

(c) Includes alterations and additions.

(d) Sum of housing component series may not equal total housing finance (see paragraph 15 in Explanatory Notes).

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
2003								
December	328	458	16	58	859	705	271	1 835
2004								
January	305	458	15	52	829	497	162	1 488
February	329	472	18	64	884	579	223	1 686
March	376	535	19	78	1 009	687	273	1 969
April	307	446	17	62	832	570	251	1 652
May	321	463	18	76	877	614	250	1 741
June	373	504	17	87	980	752	303	2 034
July	367	500	18	78	962	637	262	1 862
August	352	503	15	87	957	629	258	1 844
September	348	506	16	94	964	608	263	1 835
October	323	474	21	87	905	606	267	1 778
November	349	513	24	85	970	653	283	1 906
December	300	457	23	43	823	688	288	1 799

(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
2003								
December	186	34	21	2	18	2	7	271
2004								
January	111	26	11	1	8	2	3	162
February	144	33	16	5	16	3	6	223
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

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
2003					
December	62	306	369	298	667
2004					
January	35	503	537	202	740
February	46	254	301	214	515
March	58	465	523	289	812
April	47	269	317	205	521
May	57	266	323	215	537
June	94	342	436	300	735
July	132	349	481	258	739
August	59	327	385	263	648
September	77	339	415	329	745
October	71	331	402	236	638
November	98	327	425	236	661
December	136	359	496	293	789

(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
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2003									
December	7	17	13	26	107	63	19	47	298
2004									
January	2	10	12	16	80	43	9	30	202
February	3	16	16	13	75	41	12	37	214
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

(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 Housing component series have been seasonally adjusted independently of the total housing series. Therefore the sum of the housing components is unlikely to equal the housing total.

16 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

17 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. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on Canberra (02) 6252 6345 or by email at <timeseries@abs.gov.au>.

18 While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 17 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

19 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

20 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

- *Housing Finance, Australia* (cat. no. 5609.0)
- *Assets and Liabilities of Australian Securitisors* (cat. no. 5232.0.0.40.001)
- *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0)
- *Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (cat. no. 8750.0)
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 5625.0)
- *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia Electronic Publication* (cat. no. 9314.0).

22 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>>.

23 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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