



NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL 09:30 ON 29 APRIL 2008

Lending to individuals: March 2008

The increase in **total net lending to individuals** in March (£8.2 billion) was below the increase in February and the previous six-month average (Table A). The twelve-month growth rate slowed to 8.7%, and the three-month annualised growth rate slowed by 0.1 percentage points to 7.7%.

Within the total, the increase in **net lending secured on dwellings** (£6.9 billion) was below the increase in February and the previous six-month average (Table A). The twelve-month growth rate slowed further, to 9.1%. The three-month annualised growth rate also slowed, by 0.4 percentage points to 7.5%. The **numbers of loans approved for house purchase** (64,000), **remortgaging** (98,000) and for **other purposes** (57,000) were all lower than in February and lower than their previous six-month averages (Table B).

The increase in **net consumer credit** in March (£1.2 billion) was below that in February and below the previous six-month average (Table A). **Net credit card lending** rose by £0.4 billion, in line with the increase in February. **Net other loans and advances** increased by £0.9 billion, lower than the February increase. The annual growth rate of consumer credit rose by 0.2 percentage points to 6.7%; the three-month annualised growth rate rose by 1.4 percentage points to 8.6%.

Table A: Net lending to individuals ^(a)

Seasonally adjusted

		Total			Secured on dwellings			Consumer credit ^(b)		
		Change £ billions	Growth rates Per cent		Change £ billions	Growth rates Per cent		Change £ billions	Growth rates Per cent	
			1m	12m		1m	12m		1m	12m
2007	Dec	8.4	0.6	9.3	8.0	0.7	10.1	0.5	0.2	5.7
2008	Jan	8.4	0.6	9.1	7.4	0.6	9.7	1.1	0.5	5.8
	Feb	9.6	0.7	8.9	7.3	0.6	9.4	2.3	1.0	6.5
	Mar	8.2	0.6	8.7	6.9	0.6	9.1	1.2	0.5	6.7
Previous 6m average		9.4			8.0			1.4		
Amounts outstanding		1 429.8			1 200.3			229.5		

(a) Data in **bold italics** are where the current estimate of the change differs by more than 0.2 per cent of the underlying level or the growth rate differs by 0.2 percentage points or more from the most recent published estimate. There are no revisions above the thresholds on this occasion.

(b) See Notes to Editors 4.

Table B: Approvals secured on dwellings

Seasonally adjusted

		Total ^(a)		House purchase		Remortgaging		Other	
		Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number
		£ billions	000's	£ billions	000's	£ billions	000's	£ billions	000's
2007	Dec	25.4	227	10.5	72	13.0	100	1.8	55
2008	Jan	29.4	250	10.4	73	15.5	118	1.9	59
	Feb	26.7	243	10.4	72	14.1	109	1.9	63
	Mar	24.0	220	9.3	64	13.6	98	1.7	57
Previous 6m average		27.0	243	11.6	81	13.1	102	1.9	61

(a) Owing to the method of seasonal adjustment of these series, they may not equal the sum of their component breakdown.

Chart 1: Growth rates of seasonally adjusted lending secured on dwellings

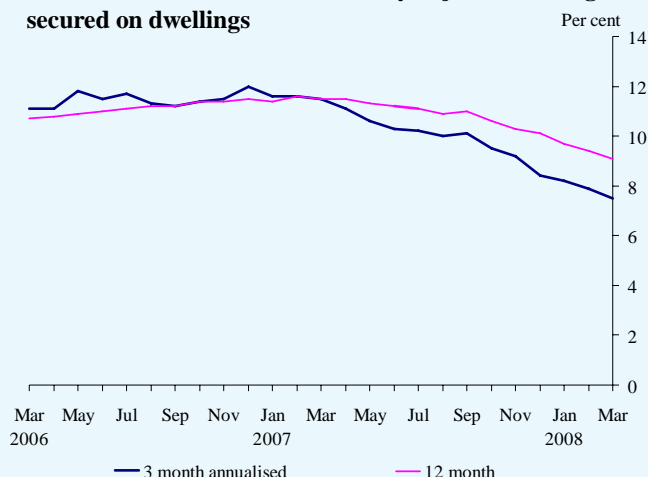
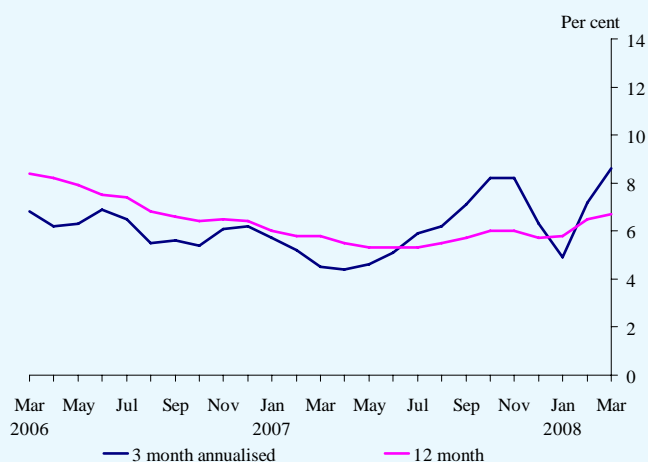


Chart 2: Growth rates of seasonally adjusted consumer credit



Notes to Editors

- 1 Full data on lending to individuals are available in Table A5 of Bank of England *Monetary and Financial Statistics* (www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/ms/current); these data are consistent with M4 lending, but are more comprehensive (as they include lending by institutions other than banks and building societies). Further information on the definitions of lending to individuals and calculations of growth rates are shown separately.
- 2 The consumer credit data include input from the Office for National Statistics. These data, and additional data not presented here, can be accessed free-of-charge from the Time Series data services at the National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdintro.asp
- 3 The Statistical Interactive Database provides long runs of statistical data with comprehensive search options and the ability to download in a variety of formats. This database can be accessed at www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd/iadb. The additional tables, shown separately, illustrate the codes for each series which can be used for downloading long runs from the database.
- 4 Consumer credit consists of credit card lending and other loans and advances. Other loans and advances include loans made through Government student support schemes (currently through the Student Loans Company). From the academic year 2006/07 onwards, tuition fee loans were made available to new students affected by variable fees (fees charged at a higher rate than the previous fixed fee level) and also to those continuing students who were not entitled to 100% tuition fee grants and, hence, were paying all or part of their lower fixed level tuition fees. Such loans are made in instalments. All new entrants in academic year 2007/08 were affected by the variable fee regulations, whilst the corresponding group that had left university was mostly affected by the previous fixed level fees. Hence, the overall level of tuition fee loans rose significantly in 2007/08. A similar increase will take place in 2008/09 and then it will level off.