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European Consumer Credit Market Shows Moderate Growth in First Half of 2019

BRUSSELS – 3 December 2019 – European consumer credit providers represented through Eurofinas¹ granted new loans worth €235.1 billion in the first half of 2019, an increase of 0.6% compared to the same period in 2018² according to the results of the Eurofinas Biannual Survey 2019. Total new consumer credit lending³, which accounts for the majority of new Eurofinas lending (74%), experienced slight growth of 1.7%.

Moderate growth was observed across all personal consumption categories, except for non-automotive credit at the point of sale. Personal loans had the highest growth, increasing by 4% compared to the first semester of last year. Revolving credit expanded at a moderate pace of 1.6%. Non-automotive credit at the point of sale remained relatively stable, falling by only -0.2%.

The consumer car lending market only grew slightly by 0.4% in the first half of 2019, with used cars performing better than new cars. Loans for new consumer vehicles declined by -4.1%, whereas loans for used cars enjoyed an increase of 4.7%. There were geographical variations in the growth of consumer car lending, ranging from double-digit drops to single-digit gains. When it comes to the car finance market for business vehicles, used cars also outperformed new cars in the first half of this year. The former expanded by 9.5% compared to the same period last year, while the latter contracted by -13.5%.

The aggregate figures are reflected by the varied and moderate performance across all national markets. Morocco, Italy, and Spain performed fairly well, with growth in consumer credit above 5%. By contrast, Belgium, Czech Republic and Norway saw a decline in growth between -5% and -3% in their consumer lending markets.

New business moderately improved in Q2 2019 when compared to the first quarter of the year. This subdued trend in growth will be likely to remain stable in the second half of the year. Although growth in household consumption is expected to edge down for the second semester of 2019, it is forecast to increase marginally in 2020, thus, making it likely that consumer credit lending will continue to experience some moderation next year.⁴

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¹ The following Eurofinas members took part in the survey: UPC/BVK (BE), CLFA (CZ), BFACH (DE), Finans og Leasing (DK), ASNEF (ES), ASF (FR), ASSOFIN (IT), LVLKA (LT), APSF (MA), FINFO (NO), ASFAC (PT), AFINA (SE), AFI (TR), FLA (UK).

² The growth rates shown are adjusted to exclude the impact of exchange rate fluctuations.

³ Total consumer credit includes consumer credit for personal consumption (including personal loans, revolving credit and non-automotive point of sale finance) and consumer point of sale vehicle finance.

⁴ European Commission Economic Forecast – Autumn 2019.



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About Eurofinas

Eurofinas, the European Federation of Finance House Associations, is the voice of the specialised consumer credit providers in the EU. As a Federation, Eurofinas brings together associations throughout Europe that represent finance houses, specialised banks, captive finance companies of car, equipment, etc. manufacturers and universal banks. The scope of products covered by Eurofinas members includes all forms of consumer credit products such as personal loans, point of sale credit, credit cards and store cards. Consumer credit facilitates access to assets and services as diverse as cars, studies, furniture, electronic appliances, etc. Eurofinas members financed more than €466 billion worth of new loans during 2018 with outstandings reaching over €1.1 trillion euros at the end of the year.

More information on Eurofinas activities available at www.eurofinas.org