

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Consumer Credit Market Shows Broad-Based Growth in First Half of 2018

BRUSSELS – 3 December 2018 – European consumer credit providers represented through Eurofinas¹ granted new loans worth €235.7 billion in the first half of 2018, an increase of 7.4% compared to the same period in 2017² according to the results of the Eurofinas Biannual Survey 2018. Total new consumer credit lending³, which accounts for the majority of new Eurofinas lending (73%), experienced strong growth of 9.7%.

Growth was observed across all personal consumption categories. Personal loans increased by 8.6%, showing moderated growth compared to last year, while revolving credit was the strongest performer at 9.8%. Non-automotive credit at the point of sale also grew well, expanding by 6.7%.

The consumer car lending market enjoyed double digit growth in the first half of 2018. Loans for new consumer vehicles grew by 10.0%, while loans for used cars increased by 13.0%. This increase in consumer car lending was observed all of the countries covered by the Eurofinas membership and was especially strong in Portugal & Czech Republic. The activity in the car finance market for business vehicles was also strong in the first half of this year, expanding by 9.5% for new cars and 9.2% for used cars.

The aggregate figures are reflected by consistent good performance across all national markets. Lithuania, Turkey and Portugal were exceptionally strong, with growth in consumer credit above 20%, and Norway, Spain and Morocco all saw growth above 10% in their consumer lending markets. The only countries with growth rates under 5% are France and Czech Republic.

New business improved in Q2 2018 when compared to the first quarter of the year, however this positive trend has likely reached its peak and growth rates will be lower in the second half of the year. Growth in household consumption is expected to slow for the second semester of 2018, continuing to decline from previous highs in 2019, which makes it likely that consumer credit lending will also see some moderation next year.⁴

- End -

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. On an unadjusted basis, Eurofinas members' overall new lending increased by 6.2%.

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 2018.



Media Contact

Anne Valette
Head of Communications
+32 2 778 05 65
a.valette@eurofinas.org

Hayley McEwen
Senior Adviser in Statistics and Economic Affairs
+32 2 778 05 71
h.mcewen@eurofinas.org

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, linked 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 €457 billion worth of new loans during 2017 with outstandings reaching almost €1.1 trillion euros at the end of the year.

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