

Media Release



For immediate release – 5 May, 2023

A RETURN IN CONFIDENCE FROM FIRST TIME BUYERS, INVESTORS AND HOME OWNERS: ABS LENDING STATISTICS

Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) has said that the ABS Lending Statistics for March 2023 show a slight improvement in confidence but overall falls well short of recent highs.

REIA President, Mr Hayden Groves, said despite the monthly rise in owner-occupier first home buyer lending, the number of these commitments was 22 per cent lower compared to a year ago.

“The value of total new owner occupier loan commitments rose 5.5 per cent to \$16 billion, while new investor loan commitments rose 3.7 per cent to \$8.0 billion.

“However, the value of new owner-occupier loan commitments in March remained 25 per cent lower compared to the same time last year, while new investor loan commitments were 29 per cent lower showing we are a long way from where buyers were last year.”

Mr Groves said the latest interest rate rise could potentially see a reversal putting more strain on housing supply and the broader economy.

“Monetary and fiscal decision makers should be doing everything they can to reassure Australians and alleviate the pressures many in the economy are experiencing.

“This month shows a small sign of hope of confidence returning to the market, particularly for first home buyers, but whether this trend continues remains to be seen.”

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Established in 1924, REIA is a federated body of State & Territory Real Estate Institutes representing 85% of Australian real estate agencies. We are a national advocate for the Australian real estate industry which is made up of 46,793 Australian businesses that employs 133,360 Australians. For more information visit www.reia.com.au