

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

**Division/Agency:** Macroeconomic Conditions Division

**Question No:** 279

**Topic:** Household debt

**Reference:** Written

**Senator:** Ketter, Chris

**Question:**

1. What has been the growth in household debt since 2013, in percentage terms for:
  - a. Owner occupied mortgages;
  - b. Investment (specifically real estate);
  - c. HELP;
  - d. Personal debts (including credit cards); and
  - e. Other debts.
2. What has been the dollar figure for household debt, for each year for 2014, 2015 and 2016, for:
  - a. Owner occupied mortgages;
  - b. Investment (specifically real estate);
  - c. HELP;
  - d. Personal debts (including credit cards); and
  - e. Other debts.

**Answer:**

- 1a. The outstanding stock of owner-occupier mortgages grew by 27.8 per cent between December 2013 and February 2017, the latest month for which data are available (Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) D2 Lending and Credit Aggregates).
- b. The outstanding stock of investor mortgages grew by 17.2 per cent between December 2013 and February 2017 (Source: RBA D2 Lending and Credit Aggregates).
- c. The outstanding stock of Higher Education Loan Program debt grew by 67.7 per cent between financial years 2012-13 and 2015-16, the latest period for which data are available (Source: Department of Education and Training). While HELP debts cannot be disaggregated by scheme, some of this growth would be associated with the growth in VET FEE-HELP, with VET FEE-HELP loans issued growing from \$325 million in 2012 to \$2.9 billion in 2015, an increase of 792 per cent. VET FEE-HELP commenced in 2009 and was expanded in 2013 following a Government decision to remove the credit transfer requirements.
- d. The outstanding stock of personal loans (including credit cards) fell by 0.6 per cent between December 2013 and February 2017 (Source: RBA D2 Lending and Credit Aggregates).
- e. The above categories of debt (i.e. owner-occupier mortgages, investor mortgages, HELP and personal debts) have been gathered from a range of datasets. Different categorisation approaches taken by each of the data providers complicates estimation of a meaningful estimate for 'other debts.' However, a comprehensive account of the range of household sector liability categories estimates that total household sector liabilities grew by 21.5 per cent between the December quarter of 2013 and the December quarter of 2016 (ABS 5232.0; Table 34).

## 2. a. Owner occupier mortgages (seasonally adjusted)

Year	Value (\$billion)
2014	877.4
2015	975.4
2016	1054.8
<i>Source: RBA D2 Lending and Credit Aggregates.</i>	

## b. Investment (specifically real estate)

Year	Value (\$billion)
2014	540.4
2015	547.7
2016	566.9
<i>Source: RBA D2 Lending and Credit Aggregates.</i>	

## c. Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)

Year	Value (\$billion)
2013-14	35.3
2014-15	42.4
2015-16	50.5
<i>Source: Department of Education and Training</i>	

## d. Personal debts (including credit cards)

Year	Value (\$billion)
2014	145.5
2015	145.9
2016	144.0
<i>Source: RBA, D2 Lending and Credit Aggregates.</i>	

e. The above categories of debt (i.e. owner-occupier mortgages, investor mortgages, HELP and personal debts) have been gathered from a range of datasets. Different categorisation approaches taken by each of the data providers complicates estimation of a meaningful estimate for 'other debts.' However, total household sector liabilities are provided below.

## Total liabilities of household sector

Year	Value (\$billion)
2014	2025.8
2015	2168.0
2016	2305.7
<i>Source: ABS 5232.0, Table 34.</i>	