

NATIONAL

FIRST HOME BUYERS RETURN AS LENDERS COMPETE ON RATES

2 November 2011

First Home Buyers are returning to the market in greater numbers than at any time since September 2009, according to AFG, Australia's largest mortgage broker. The AFG Mortgage Index shows that First Home Buyers comprised 16.4% of all loans processed – a 40% increase for this buyer category compared to October 2010 when they comprised 11.8% of the mortgage market.

First Home Buyers were particularly active in NSW, where 21.1% of home loans were arranged for them in October, as well as QLD (17.9%) and WA (17.3%).

More mortgage buyers opted for fixed rate loans in October than in any month since March 2008. Fixed rate loans comprised 20.4% of all home loans processed in October – dramatic growth considering they comprised only 7.9% of home loans as recently as July 2011.

Mark Hewitt, General Manager of Sales and Operations at AFG says: 'Buyers are reaping the benefits of one of the most competitive mortgage markets we've seen in years. Discounted fixed rate loans appealed to all buyer types, but especially first home buyers and those looking to refinance. We have been slightly surprised with the popularity of fixed rates given it has been generally predicted variable rates would decrease and we would now expect the proportion of fixed rate loans to fall, following the cut in variable rates announced yesterday. Non major lenders are doing increasingly well in this environment and hopefully yesterday's news will further support a market recovery which is still in its very early stages.'

Non majors have seized more market share than at any time over the past twelve months now comprising 21.1% of all home loans. Their products are of particular appeal to first home buyers, where almost 30% of the market is held by non majors, as well as buyers looking to refinance, where non majors account for a 21.2% market share.

Investment accounted for 35.6% of all new mortgages, with investors especially active in NSW (39.2%) and Vic (38.9%) with lower levels of activity in QLD (32.9%) WA (32.2%) and SA (29.8%).

AFG has 10% of the national mortgage market (Source: ABS data and AFG figures). The company's data is usually indicative of the data published by the ABS six weeks later. Figures for each state are available at: www.afgonline.com.au: Corporate - News.

ENDS

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AFG MORTGAGES SOLD

TABLE 1: ALL AUSTRALIA

MONTH	TOTAL NUMBER	TOTAL AMOUNT	AVERAGE SIZE	PROPERTY INVESTORS	FIRST TIME BUYERS	% REFINANCE
Aug 10	6,269	\$2,343 m	\$373k	34.3%	11.7%	38.3%
Sep 10	6,157	\$2,335 m	\$379k	34.5%	12.6%	36.8%
Oct 10	5,891	\$2,234 m	\$380k	35.4%	11.8%	37.8%
Nov 10	6,619	\$2,511 m	\$379k	35.1%	12.2%	38.5%
Dec 10	5,472	\$2,076 m	\$379k	35.5%	11.4%	41.5%
Jan 11	3,583	\$1,310 m	\$365k	34.7%	14.1%	36.1%
Feb 11	5,365	\$2,053 m	\$382k	33.9%	14.6%	37.0%
Mar 11	6,436	\$2,513 m	\$390k	34.7%	13.9%	36.9%
Apr 11	5,489	\$2,119 m	\$386k	34.9%	13.9%	36.7%
May 11	6,483	\$2,517 m	\$388k	36.5%	13.2%	36.8%
June 11	6,205	\$2,382 m	\$384k	36.2%	12.9%	39.2%
July 11	5,937	\$2,293 m	\$386k	35.6%	13.6%	39.1%
Aug 11	7,198	\$2,764 m	\$384k	36.5%	13.8%	38.2%
Sep 11	6,687	\$2,633 m	\$393k	37.7%	15.7%	37.9%
Oct 11	6,349	\$2,509 m	\$395k	35.6%	16.4%	37.9%



MAJOR VS NON MAJOR LENDER MARKET SHARE

TABLE 2: BY BUYER TYPE

MONTH	TOTAL MORTGAGES		REFINANCE		FIRST HOME BUYERS		INVESTORS	
	MAJOR	NON-MAJOR	MAJOR	NON-MAJOR	MAJOR	NON-MAJOR	MAJOR	NON-MAJOR
2010 10	80.6%	19.4%	77.1%	22.9%	74.6%	25.4%	83.7%	16.3%
2010 11	80.6%	19.4%	77.3%	22.7%	77.6%	22.5%	82.9%	17.1%
2010 12	81.1%	18.9%	78.7%	21.3%	79.0%	20.9%	82.4%	17.6%
2011 01	80.7%	19.3%	77.5%	22.5%	77.1%	22.9%	82.2%	17.8%
2011 02	79.4%	20.6%	74.5%	25.6%	75.0%	24.9%	81.6%	18.4%
2011 03	81.7%	18.3%	79.0%	20.9%	79.7%	20.3%	82.2%	17.8%
2011 04	82.4%	17.6%	80.5%	19.5%	77.3%	22.8%	83.3%	16.7%
2011 05	80.4%	19.6%	78.7%	21.3%	77.1%	22.9%	83.0%	17.0%
2011 06	82.1%	17.9%	78.7%	21.3%	76.2%	23.8%	82.9%	17.0%
2011 07	81.7%	18.3%	79.8%	20.2%	77.6%	22.5%	83.0%	17.0%
2011 08	82.0%	18.0%	80.3%	19.7%	77.8%	22.2%	83.4%	16.6%
2011 09	80.1%	19.9%	78.6%	21.4%	70.7%	29.3%	82.8%	17.2%
2011 10	78.9%	21.1%	78.8%	21.2%	70.8%	29.2%	82.7%	17.3%

Majors = Four major banks including the brands they own

Non-Majors = All other lenders




AVERAGE MORTGAGE SIZE IN DOLLARS
TABLE 3: STATE BY STATE

MONTH	AUSTRALIA	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	NT
2010 07	370,505	428,943	335,850	288,165	356,642	393,134	358,630
2010 08	373,750	433,378	341,353	305,536	360,431	391,397	332,643
2010 09	379,374	454,325	318,556	300,754	354,673	398,064	318,556
2010 10	380,027	442,743	354,651	315,306	359,271	393,479	307,661
2010 11	379,385	434,898	354,220	305,978	359,343	395,325	338,145
2010 12	379,444	432,540	344,485	324,070	370,978	396,047	339,641
2011 01	365,799	416,527	319,554	301,933	349,155	397,102	329,902
2011 02	382,725	451,630	354,012	321,672	346,465	394,922	360,971
2011 03	390,479	467,034	357,177	309,931	360,051	396,572	376,348
2011 04	386,218	453,492	357,453	315,692	363,724	404,714	326,205
2011 05	388,384	453,286	354,886	302,057	379,993	399,372	383,786
2011 06	384,042	455,559	347,506	294,092	362,063	412,557	347,725
2011 07	386,382	456,388	360,034	318,695	388,360	371,500	355,855
2011 08	384,124	452,230	348,880	323,487	382,884	382,598	321,164
2011 09	393,822	461,132	358,846	325,771	383,114	397,917	338,159
2011 10	395,226	447,144	358,142	329,566	396,238	406,019	369,765


LOAN VALUE RATIOS (loan stated as % of property value)

TABLE 4: STATE BY STATE

	AUSTRALIA	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	NT
2010 08	63.0%	67.0%	62.4%	62.3%	64.1%	61.4%	60.6%
2010 09	63.0%	64.9%	63.3%	63.5%	64.9%	61.6%	59.7%
2010 10	64.5%	67.5%	65.5%	64.9%	66.3%	63.7%	59.0%
2010 11	64.2%	65.1%	64.2%	62.1%	65.5%	64.1%	64.2%
2010 12	65.9%	66.2%	65.1%	65.5%	66.1%	63.6%	68.7%
2011 01	65.4%	66.5%	62.8%	62.2%	67.7%	66.8%	66.2%
2011 02	68.8%	69.2%	66.5%	66.5%	66.5%	65.9%	78.2%
2011 03	65.8%	66.8%	65.2%	67.2%	67.5%	65.0%	63.1%
2011 04	63.9%	65.4%	65.4%	64.9%	65.8%	65.1%	56.8%
2011 05	65.5%	66.2%	66.0%	64.8%	66.0%	63.8%	66.1%
2011 06	64.2%	64.4%	66.0%	63.4%	65.3%	65.2%	61.0%
2011 07	66.3%	68.7%	66.3%	65.0%	65.5%	66.5%	66.0%
2011 08	67.7%	70.1%	67.1%	67.8%	69.9%	65.0%	67.1%
2011 09	66.0%	69.0%	68.9%	64.1%	65.2%	66.4%	62.3%
2011 10	66.7%	70.0%	67.9%	67.8%	65.9%	67.8%	60.5%





LOAN TYPE

TABLE 5: ALL AUSTRALIA

MONTH	BASIC	EQUITY	FIXED	INTRO	STANDARD
Sep 10	16.7%	9.0%	5.4%	7.5%	61.4%
Oct 10	16.2%	10.4%	6.3%	6.9%	60.0%
Nov 10	15.0%	9.5%	9.0%	7.4%	59.1%
Dec 10	13.7%	9.0%	12.6%	8.9%	55.7%
Jan 11	14.6%	7.7%	9.0%	11.9%	56.7%
Feb 11	14.2%	9.7%	6.6%	13.2%	56.2%
Mar 11	11.8%	9.3%	6.6%	15.6%	56.6%
Apr 11	10.6%	9.7%	6.4%	14.3%	58.9%
May 11	11.7%	8.9%	8.4%	12.5%	58.5%
June 11	10.6%	9.3%	8.2%	11.5%	60.4%
July 11	13.2%	8.6%	7.9%	8.5%	61.8%
Aug 11	11.7%	9.6%	9.4%	6.0%	63.2%
Sep 11	9.9%	7.7%	16.6%	4.7%	60.9%
Oct 11	8.8%	8.1%	20.4%	3.9%	58.6%

DEFINITIONS

1. **Standard Variable:** includes the full range of features available.
2. **Basic Variable:** without some features, lower fees and rates.
3. **Intro:** also known as 'honeymoon' where the borrower is offered a very cheap initial rate (fixed or variable) before the loan reverts to a Standard Variable.
4. **Fixed:** interest rate is fixed for a nominated period before it reverts to a Standard Variable.
5. **Equity:** also known as 'line of credit' allows the borrower to draw out money up to a specified limit. Generally more expensive than Standard

NOTE TO EDITORS

