

## Media release

9 December 2015

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### **Lending figures point to a continuing increase in owner occupier activity**

The latest housing finance figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show a continued increase in owner occupier lending.

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) says the figures for October 2015 show, in trend terms that the number of owner-occupied finance commitments increased by 0.8 per cent. This increase is the same as for the previous two months. If refinancing is excluded, in trend terms for October, the number of owner-occupied finance commitments increased by 0.8 per cent – the fifth consecutive month of increases.

REIA President, Neville Sanders says, “increases were recorded in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory with New South Wales having the largest increase of 1.8 per cent. The largest decrease was again recorded in the Northern Territory – down 1.3 per cent and the fourteenth consecutive month of decreases.”

“In trend terms, the number of new dwellings purchase commitments increased by 1.5 per cent while new dwelling construction remained unchanged and the purchase of established dwellings increased by 0.8 per cent”.

“The value of investment housing commitments decreased by 3.1 per cent in trend terms and by 6.1 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms. This is the fifth consecutive month of falling investor lending showing that the macro prudential measures introduced are having an impact on investor activity.”

“The proportion of first home buyers, as part of the total owner-occupied housing finance commitments, decreased to 15.1 per cent compared to 15.4 per cent in September.”

“Whilst investor activity is abating the lending figures show that owner occupiers continue to have a greater presence in the market,” concluded Mr Sanders.

**The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is the national professional association for real estate agents in Australia. For further information or interview opportunities, please contact:**

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