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*Z.1*

# *Flow of Funds Accounts of the United States*

*Flows and Outstandings  
Fourth Quarter 2004*



## Flow of Funds Summary Statistics Fourth Quarter 2004

Domestic nonfinancial debt rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8-1/4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2004. Debt growth in the fourth quarter matched the third-quarter pace, as slower debt growth in the household and state and local government sectors offset faster debt growth for the federal government and nonfinancial businesses. Domestic nonfinancial debt rose 8-1/2 percent over 2004 as a whole, 1/2 percentage point above the rate in 2003.

In the fourth quarter, household debt rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 9-1/2 percent, somewhat below the pace in the previous quarter. Declines in the growth rates of mortgage debt and consumer credit in the fourth quarter contributed to the deceleration in household debt. For 2004 as a whole, household debt increased 11 percent, one percentage point more than in 2003. The pickup in household debt growth last year was primarily accounted for by faster growth of mortgage debt, although growth of consumer credit rose slightly, as well.

Nonfinancial business debt rose at an annual rate of 8 percent last quarter – the largest quarterly increase since late in 2000. The acceleration in nonfinancial business debt in the fourth quarter was accounted for primarily by increases in net bond issuance and borrowing from banks and other intermediaries. The 5-3/4 percent increase in nonfinancial business debt in 2004 was 1-1/2 percentage points higher than the growth rate in 2003.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, federal government debt increased at an annual rate of 7-1/4 percent last quarter, and expanded 9 percent over all of 2004. State and local government debt rose at a pace of 5-1/2 percent last quarter, and increased 7-1/2 percent for the year as a whole. In 2004, debt growth of the federal government and state and local governments was a little less than in the previous year.

At the end of 2004, the level of domestic nonfinancial debt outstanding was \$24.2 trillion. Debt of nonfederal sectors was \$19.8 trillion, and federal government debt was \$4.4 trillion.

### Growth of Domestic Nonfinancial Debt<sup>1</sup>

Percentage changes; quarterly data are seasonally adjusted annual rates

	Nonfederal					
	Total	Federal	Total	Households	Business	State and local govts.
1995	5.3	4.1	5.7	7.1	7.2	-5.5
1996	5.2	4.0	5.7	6.8	6.2	-1.5
1997	5.3	0.6	7.0	6.0	9.0	4.0
1998	6.9	-1.4	9.6	7.9	12.3	6.3
1999	6.4	-1.9	8.9	8.3	10.7	3.4
2000	4.8	-8.0	8.3	8.7	9.4	1.3
2001	6.2	-0.2	7.6	8.8	6.1	8.9
2002	6.8	7.6	6.7	9.6	2.7	11.1
2003	8.1	10.9	7.5	10.0	4.3	8.2
2004	8.6	9.0	8.5	11.0	5.7	7.4
2004: Q1	9.3	12.0	8.7	11.8	4.6	10.3
Q2	7.4	10.7	6.7	9.7	3.7	3.5
Q3	8.3	4.9	9.1	11.5	5.9	9.4
Q4	8.3	7.3	8.5	9.4	8.0	5.6

1. Changes shown are on an end-of-period basis.



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## Flow of Funds Accounts, Fourth Quarter 2004

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This publication presents the flow of funds accounts for 2004:Q4.

**Data revisions and other changes.** The statistics in the attached tables reflect the use of new or revised source data. Most significant revisions appear in recent quarters; however, new source information resulted in changes to data for earlier periods.

1. Data for investment and depreciation flows of all sectors, and capital stocks for the household, nonfarm nonfinancial corporate business, and nonfarm noncorporate business sectors have been revised beginning in 1987 to reflect updated annual estimates of fixed assets from the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce.

2. In the nonfarm noncorporate business sector (tables F.103 and L.103), data have been revised from 2002:Q1 onward, owing to benchmark statistics available from the IRS/SOI for 2002.

3. Proprietors' equity in noncorporate business outstandings are now shown in table L.228.

**Explanatory notes for tables D.1, D.2, and D.3.** Domestic debt comprises credit market funds borrowed by U.S. entities from both domestic and foreign sources, while foreign debt represents amounts borrowed by foreign financial and nonfinancial entities in U.S. markets only. Financial sectors consist of government-sponsored enterprises, agency- and GSE-backed mortgage pools, and private financial institutions. Credit market debt consists of debt securities, mortgages, bank loans, commercial paper, consumer credit, U.S. government loans, and other loans and advances; it excludes trade debt, loans for the purpose of carrying securities, and funds raised from equity sources.

Growth rates in table D.1 are calculated by dividing seasonally adjusted flows from table D.2 by seasonally adjusted levels at the end of the previous period from table D.3. Seasonally adjusted levels in flow of funds statistics are derived by carrying forward year-end levels by seasonally adjusted flows. Growth rates calculated from changes in unadjusted levels printed in table L.2 can differ from those in table D.1.

**Relation of Flows to Outstandings.** Estimates of financial assets and liabilities outstanding are linked to data on flows. However, figures on outstandings

contain discontinuities or breaks in series that could affect analysis of particular relationships over time specifically, outstanding in the flow of funds accounts are related to the flows in the following way:

Outstanding<sub>t</sub> = Outstanding<sub>t-1</sub> + Flow<sub>t</sub> + Discontinuity<sub>t</sub>  
 where "t" is the time period.

Discontinuities result from changes in valuation, breaks in source data, and changes in definitions. For most series, the value of the discontinuity is zero for nearly all time periods. However, in a few instances, the discontinuity is nonzero for almost all time periods, or is quite large in a particular quarter, such as a period when there is a sharp increase or decrease in equity prices or a major break in source data.

The discontinuities in a series can distort estimated rates of growth in assets and liabilities between periods. In order to minimize these distortions, percentage changes in assets and liabilities in flow of funds releases should be calculated as:

Percentage change<sub>t</sub> = (Flow<sub>t</sub> / Outstanding<sub>t-1</sub>) \* 100

**Preliminary Estimates.** Figures shown for the most recent quarter in these tables are based on preliminary and incomplete information. A summary list of the principal sources of information available when the latest quarter's data were compiled is provided in a table following this introduction. The distinction between "available" data and "missing" data is not between final and preliminary versions of data, but rather between those source estimates that are fully ready when the latest quarterly publication is compiled and those that are not yet completed. However, the items that are shown as available are, in general, also preliminary in the sense that they are subject to revision by source agencies.

**Margins of Uncertainty.** Flow of funds statistics are subject to uncertainties resulting from measurement errors in source data, incompatibilities among data from different sources, potential revisions in both financial and nonfinancial series, and incomplete data in parts of the accounts. The size of these uncertainties cannot be quantified in precise statistical terms, but allowance for them is explicitly made throughout the accounts by the inclusion of "discrepancies" for various sectors and instrument types. A discrepancy for a sector is the difference between its measured sources of funds and

its measured uses of funds. For an instrument category, a discrepancy is the difference between measured funds borrowed through the financial instrument and measured funds lent through that instrument. The size of such discrepancies relative to the main asset or liability components is one indication of the quality of source data, especially on an annual basis. For quarterly data, differences in seasonal adjustment procedures for financial and nonfinancial components of the accounts sometimes result in discrepancies that cancel in annual data.

**Availability of Data.** Flow of funds statistics are updated about ten weeks following the end of a quarter. This publication — the Z.1 release — is available from the Board's Publications Services. Flow of funds data are also available electronically through the Internet at the following location:

**<http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/Z1>**

The Internet site also provides quarterly data beginning in 1952, organized in compressed files that correspond to the tables published in this release. There are files for quarterly data for seasonally adjusted flows, unadjusted flows, outstandings, balance sheets, and debt (tables D.1, D.2, and D.3).

A *Guide to the Flow of Funds Accounts* is available. The 1,200-page *Guide*, published in two volumes in January 2000, explains in detail how the U.S. financial accounts are prepared and the principles underlying the accounts. The *Guide* can be purchased for \$20.00 from the Board's Publications Services. Publications Services accepts orders accompanied by checks as well as credit card orders.

The Internet site for this release at the location shown above contains a link to an order form for the *Guide* that can be mailed or faxed to Publications Services. In addition, the Internet site includes a link to the *Guide's* descriptions of the tables in the flow of funds accounts.

**Subscription Information.** The Federal Reserve Board charges for subscriptions to all statistical releases. Inquiries for releases should be directed to:

Publications Services, Stop 127  
Board of Governors  
of the Federal Reserve System  
20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20551  
(202) 452-3244

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## Availability of Data for Latest Quarter

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	<u>Available at time of publication</u>	<u>Major items missing</u>
1. National income and product accounts (NIPA)	Preliminary estimates, seasonally adjusted, for 2004:Q4.	Unadjusted flows since 2002 and some profit-related items.
2. Households and nonprofit organizations sector (tables F.100 and L.100)	Estimates for this sector are largely residuals and are derived from data for other sectors. Availability of data depends on schedules for other sectors. Data for consumer credit, which are estimated directly, are available through 2004:Q4. The source for nonprofit organizations data (tables F.100.a and L.100.a) is the Internal Revenue Service <i>Statistics of Income</i> . Data for nonprofit organizations are available for 1987 through 2000.	
3. Nonfarm nonfinancial corporate business (tables F.102 and L.102)	<i>Quarterly Financial Report</i> (QFR) of the Census Bureau through 2004:Q3; Internal Revenue Service <i>Statistics of Income</i> (IRS/SOI) preliminary data through 2002; securities offerings, mortgages, bank loans, commercial paper, and other loans through 2004:Q4.	<i>Statistics of Income</i> data since 2002.
4. Nonfarm noncorporate business (tables F.103 and L.103)	IRS/SOI data through 2002; bank and finance company loans and mortgage borrowing through 2004:Q4.	<i>Statistics of Income</i> data since 2002.
5. Farm business (tables F.104 and L.104)	Mortgages, bank loans, loans from government-sponsored enterprises, U.S. government loans to farms, and equity in government-sponsored enterprises through 2004:Q4; preliminary data for checkable deposits and currency and trade payables through 2003.	Consumption of fixed capital and undistributed profits since 2001.
6. State and local governments (tables F.105 and L.105)	Gross offerings and retirements of municipal securities, deposits at banks, and nonmarketable U.S. government security issues through 2004:Q4; selected financial assets through 2003:Q3 from the comprehensive annual financial reports of state and local governments that account for most of the holdings of the sector, and data from Standard & Poor's on local government investment pools.	Selected financial asset items since 2003:Q3.
7. Federal government (tables F.106 and L.106)	Data from the <i>Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays</i> through 2004:Q4; Treasury data for loan programs through 2004:Q4.	None.

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8. Rest of the world (U.S. international transactions) (tables F.107 and L.107)	Balance of payments data through 2004:Q3; NIPA estimates; data from bank Reports of Condition and Treasury International Capital System through 2004:Q4.	Balance of payments data for 2004:Q4.
9. Monetary authority (tables F.108 and L.108)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
10. Commercial banking (tables F.109 through F.113 and tables L.109 through L.113)	All data through 2004:Q4 for U.S.-chartered commercial banks, foreign banking offices in the U.S., bank holding companies, and commercial banks in U.S.-affiliated areas.	Data since 2003 for branches of domestic commercial banks located in U.S.-affiliated areas.
11. Savings institutions (tables F.114 and L.114)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
12. Credit unions (tables F.115 and L.115)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
13. Bank personal trusts and estates (tables F.116 and L.116)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
14. Life insurance companies (tables F.117 and L.117)	All data through 2004:Q3.	Data for 2004:Q4.
15. Other insurance companies (tables F.118 and L.118)	All data through 2004:Q3.	Data for 2004:Q4.
16. Private pension funds (tables F.119 and L.119)	Quarterly data through 2004:Q4; Internal Revenue Service/Department of Labor/Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Form 5500 data through 2000.	Form 5500 data since 2000.
17. State and local government employee retirement funds (tables F.120 and L.120)	All data through 2004:Q3.	Data for 2004:Q4.
18. Federal government retirement funds (tables F.121 and L.121)	Data from the Monthly Treasury Statement, the Thrift Savings Plan, and the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust through 2004:Q4.	None.
19. Money market mutual funds (tables F.122 and L.122)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
20. Mutual funds (tables F.123 and L.123)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.

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21. Closed-end funds (tables F.124 and L.124)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
22. Exchange-traded funds (tables F.124 and L.124)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
23. Government-sponsored enterprises (tables F.125 and L.125)	Data for FCS, FICO and REFCORP through 2004:Q4.	Data after 2003:Q4 for Freddie Mac; data after 2004:Q2 for Fannie Mae. Data for FHLBs, Farmer Mac and Sallie Mae for 2004:Q4.
24. Agency- and GSE-backed mortgage pools (tables F.126 and L.126)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
25. Issuers of asset-backed securities (ABSs) (tables F.127 and L.127)	All data for private mortgage pools, consumer credit, business loans, student loans, consumer leases, and trade credit securitization through 2004:Q4.	None.
26. Finance companies (tables F.128 and L.128)	All data through 2004:Q4.	None.
27. Mortgage companies (tables F.129 and L.129)	Mortgage data through 1997:Q4.	Data after 1997:Q4.
28. Real estate investment trusts (REITs) (tables F.130 and L.130)	Data from SNL REIT DataSource through 2004:Q3; preliminary data for 2004:Q4.	Final data for 2004:Q4.
29. Security brokers and dealers (tables F.131 and L.131)	Data for firms filing FOCUS and FOGS reports through 2004:Q4.	None.
30. Funding corporations (tables F.132 and L.132)	Estimates for this sector are largely residuals and are derived from data for other sectors.	