

5 May 2006

Transmission embargo until 10 a.m. ECB time (CET) on Friday, 5 May 2006

PRESS RELEASE

RESULTS OF THE APRIL 2006 BANK LENDING SURVEY FOR THE EURO AREA

The European Central Bank (ECB) is today publishing its report on the results of the April 2006 bank lending survey for the euro area.

The bank lending survey has been developed by the Eurosystem in order to enhance the understanding of bank lending behaviour in the euro area.

The survey is conducted four times a year, at the beginning of each quarter. The cut-off date for the receipt of data from banks participating in this survey was 11 April 2006.

The report is available on the ECB's website at http://www.ecb.int in the "Statistics" section under "Money, banking and financial markets"/"Bank lending survey".

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