

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Leasing Market on a Steady Growth Path in 2014

Brussels, 27 March 2015 – Leaseurope, the trade association representing the European leasing and automotive rental industries, has released the results of its preliminary survey of the European leasing market for 2014¹.

Our survey finds that new leasing business in Europe expanded by 8.4% in 2014² reaching its highest annual rate of growth in volume since 2007.

Growth was observed across all main asset categories covered in the survey, particularly for vehicles with new leasing volumes in this segment rising by 12.4% on 2013. The equipment leasing segment saw a moderate increase of nearly 1.0%, while real estate leasing picked up by 7.6% in 2014, witnessing the first year of growth since 2010.

While growth of the European leasing market is firming, it is uneven across countries. Nevertheless, most of national leasing markets saw positive results in 2014, which is an improvement compared to 2013, where just under half recorded negative performance. An increase in new business volumes in 2014 was largely driven by Europe's four largest economies. It is also worth noting that some of the leasing markets in Southern Europe saw double digit growth.

Commenting on the figures, Leaseurope's Adviser in Statistics and Economic Affairs, Jurgita Bucyte said "Against the backdrop of faltering European equipment investment throughout 2014, it is particularly encouraging to see that our industry is able to gather momentum across the board. Businesses were keen to use leasing to invest in a wide range of assets, particularly in vehicles. This trend supports the findings of our latest Business Confidence Survey, which demonstrates a positive sentiment in the leasing market for new business growth. While near-term European investment is likely to be subdued and some degree of economic uncertainty remains, equipment investment growth is projected to gradually pick up³, which should bode well for the leasing business in 2015."

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¹ Leaseurope will publish final, comprehensive figures for 2014 once its full Annual survey of Member Associations is complete in the coming months.

² Growth rates are based on a homogenous sample of 30 Member Associations reporting in Leaseurope's 2014 Preliminary Survey and are adjusted for exchange rate fluctuations.

³ European Commission's European Economic Forecast, Winter 2014

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About Leaseurope

As a Federation, Leaseurope brings together 44 associations throughout Europe representing either the leasing, long term and/or short term automotive rental industries. The scope of products covered by Leaseurope's members ranges from hire purchase and finance leases to operating leases of all asset types (automotive, equipment and real estate) and also includes the rental of cars, vans and trucks. It is estimated that Leaseurope represents approximately 92% of the European leasing market. For more information, please visit our website at www.leaseurope.org.

The Member Associations taking part in the 2014 Preliminary Statistical Survey are:

Verband Österreichischer Leasing-Gesellschaften (AT), Association Belge des Entreprises de Leasing (BE), Fédération Belge des Loueurs de Véhicules (BE), Bulgarian Association for Leasing (BG), Schweizerischer Leasingverband (CH), Czech Leasing and Finance Association (CZ), Bundesverband Deutscher Leasing (DE), Finans Og Leasing (DK), Estonian Leasing Association (EE), Asociación Española de Leasing y Renting (ES), Asociación Española de Renting de Vehículos – AER (ES), Federation of Finnish Financial Services (FI), Association Française des Sociétés Financières (FR), Fédération Nationale des Loueurs de Véhicules (FR), Association of Greek Leasing Companies (GR), Associazione Italiana Leasing (IT), Association of Lithuanian Banks – Leasing Committee (LT), Association Professionnelle des Sociétés de Financement (MA), Nederlandse Vereniging van Leasemaatschappijen (NL), Vereniging van Nederlandse Autoleasemaatschappijen (NL), Finansieringsselskaperes Forening (NO), Polish Leasing Association (PL), Associação Portuguesa de Leasing, Factoring e Renting (PT), Romanian Leasing and Non-Banking Financial Services Association (RO), Association of Leasing Companies in Serbia (RS), United Leasing Association – ULA (RU), Associations of Swedish Finance Houses – AFINA (SE), Leasing Committee of the Banking Association of Slovenia (SI), Association of Leasing Companies of the Slovak Republic (SK), Auto Leasing and Rental Companies Association – Tokkder (TR), and Finance and Leasing Association (UK).