

## Loan Situation Improving

By The Moscow Times

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Lending by Russian banks, excluding market leader Sberbank, increased last month, Central Bank First Deputy Chairman Gennady Melikyan said, RIA-Novosti reported Friday.

Corporate lending rose 0.7 percent in August, while retail lending climbed 2.3 percent, he was quoted as saying. Bank deposits excluding Sberbank's grew 1.4 percent in the month.

The share of overdue corporate loans declined to 5.9 percent from 5.96 percent the month before, Melikyan said. Bad retail loans fell to 9.3 percent from 9.4 percent. ■

(Bloomberg)

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