



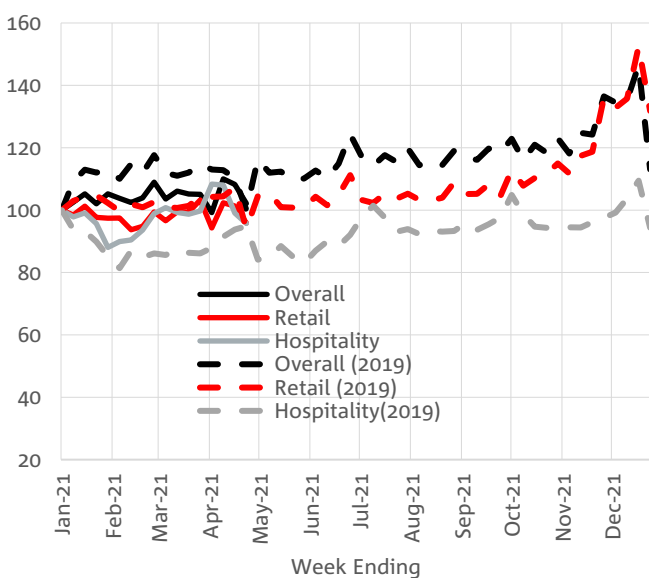
NAB ECONOMICS DATA INSIGHTS

WEEK ENDING 1 MAY 2021

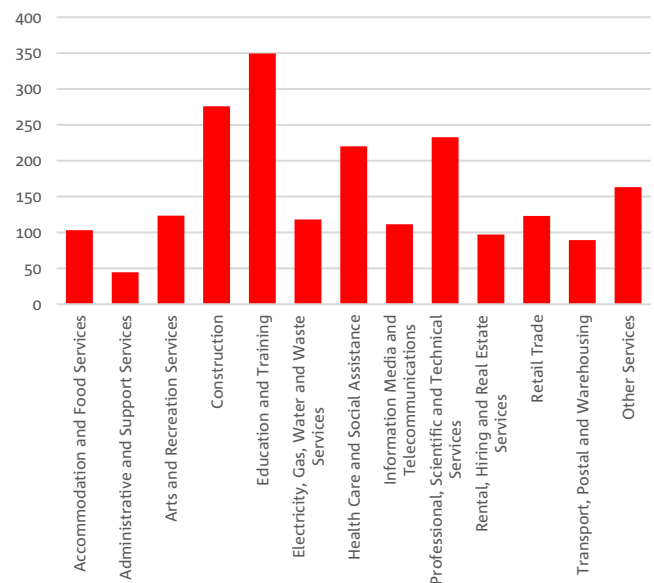
COMMENTS FROM NAB GROUP CHIEF ECONOMIST ALAN OSTER

- During these extraordinary times, NAB has taken the decision to publish aggregated customer data categorised by industry segment with the view to helping provide clarity around which segments of the economy have been most affected by the broader macroeconomic trends at play. NAB takes data privacy very seriously. All customer transaction data has been aggregated and no individual’s data is specifically identified or analysed as part of this process. The data used in this report will not be sold or made publicly available, but insights from the data will be shared with the Australian people.
- The headline results for the week ending 1 May 2021 continue to be encouraging, further underlining our view that the Australian economy is recovering well from the pandemic. The slowdown that we flagged earlier this year now looks to have stabilised – an encouraging sign for consumption despite low wage growth. Western Australian results took a hit from the snap lockdown but (as has been the case for other short lockdowns), look to be recovering rapidly. While the timing of Easter and end of month make seasonal adjustment difficult, this week’s data clearly provides further support to the idea that consumption has returned to “normal” levels.
- In index terms (2019 base), in the week ending 1 May 2021 the overall series stood at 126.6, above its position 52 weeks prior (+108). In early May 2020, the drop in total consumption had begun to moderate as retail home improvements began to kick in. Using a base reset at the start of the year to get some idea of seasonality, the overall index (102.2) is just above the start of 2021 - up about 2.2% from week one. Compared to the same week in 2019 (100) the index appears flat but the timing of Easter in 2019 makes direct comparison more difficult (retail other than confectionary can be typically quieter at this time), highlighting the challenges of seasonal comparisons of weekly data.
- On the same basis, Retail trade (96) eased from a week prior (revised 101, previously 94), but is still 4% lower than the start of the year. Compared to 2019 (94), over 6% below week 1 of that year, the results are remarkably similar. But again, this week in 2019 included Easter, suggesting some caution. The index for hospitality (95.7) slowed relative to a week prior (revised +99) and is on par with the index value in 2019 (94.8), but well above 2020 (42). Overall, we are encouraged, particularly by the results for hospitality, which endured a very tough 2020.
- Overall, our inward credits data tells a similar story to consumption spending. Using an index format, overall inflows stood at 133 last week, peaking a little earlier than in 2019. However, timing of Easter and end of month considerations are likely to be part of the driver here.

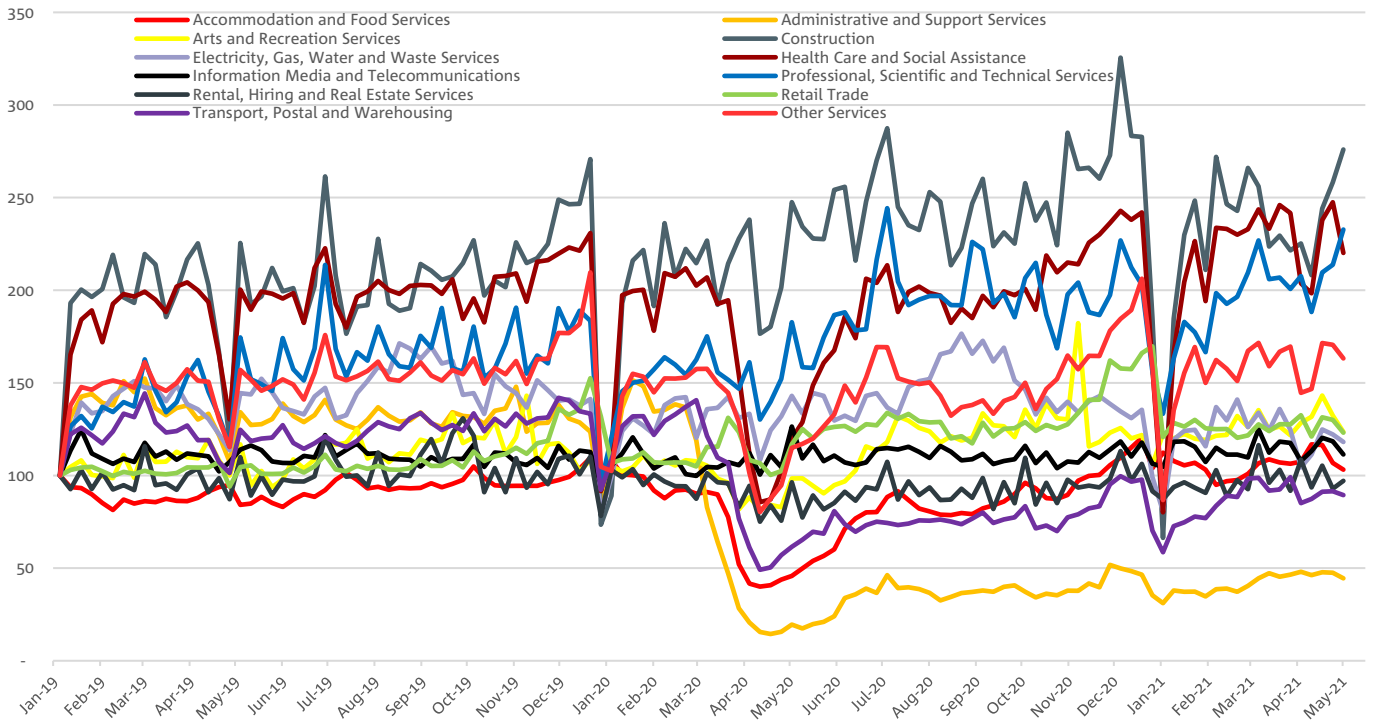
WEEKLY INDEX- BASE RESET ANNUALLY



CONSUMPTION SPENDING BY DIVISION

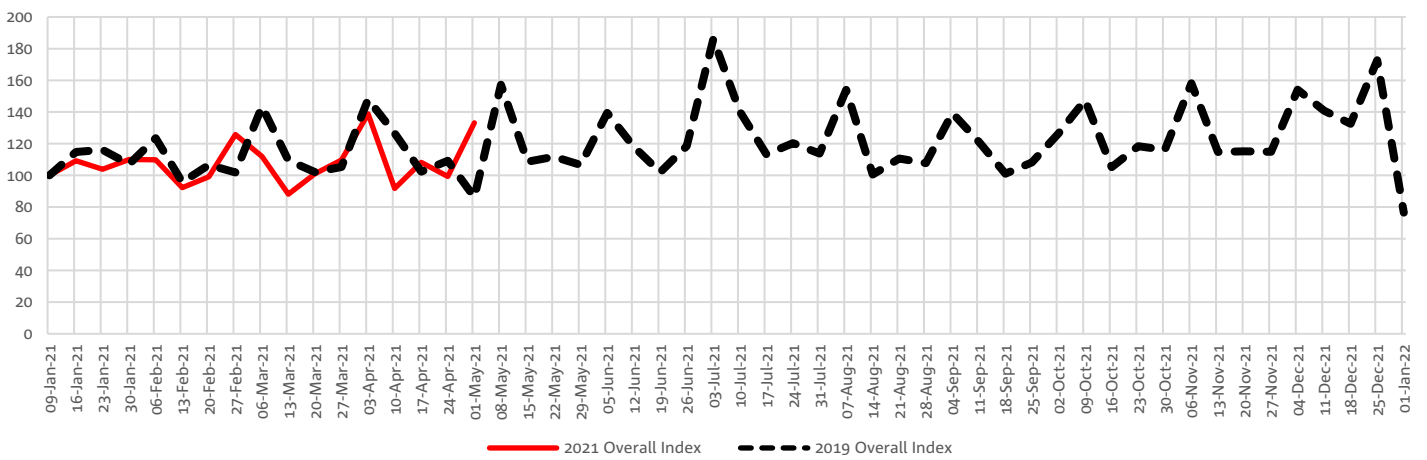


CONSUMPTION SPENDING BY INDUSTRY (INDEX, 100 = JAN 2019)

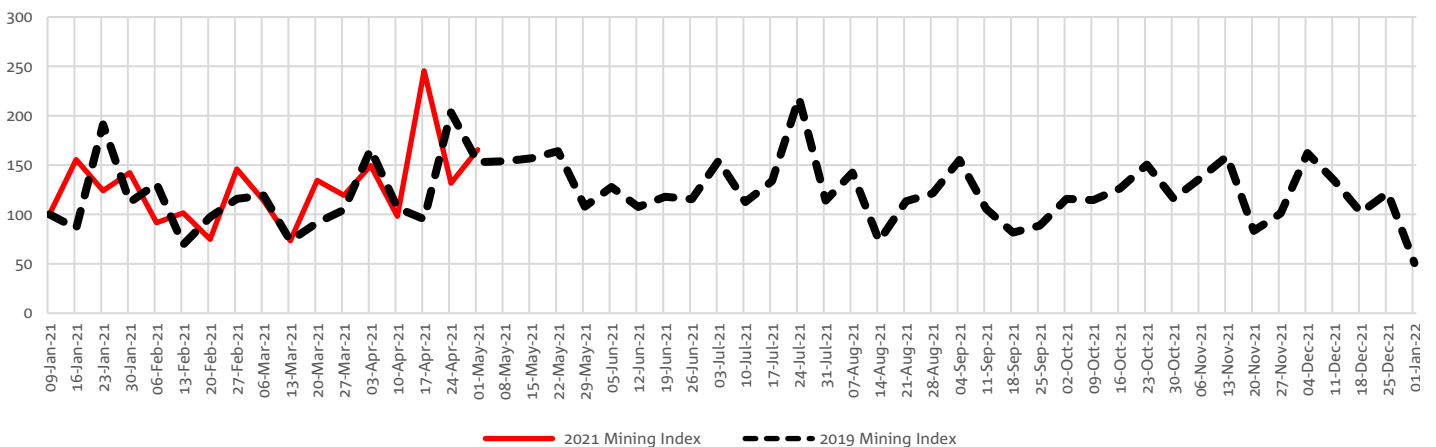


PAYMENT INFLOWS INTO NAB MERCHANTS – BASE RESET ANNUALLY

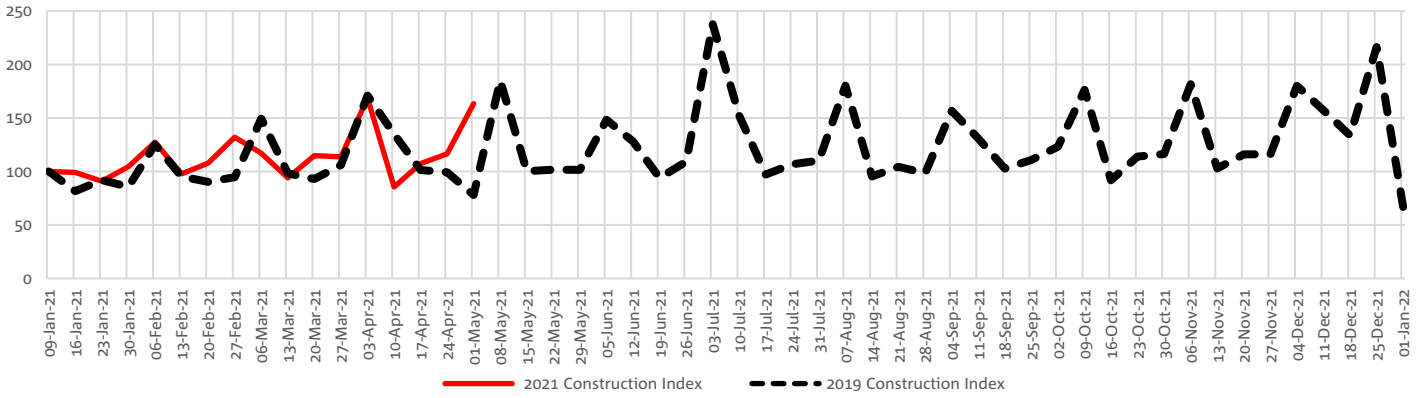
Overall



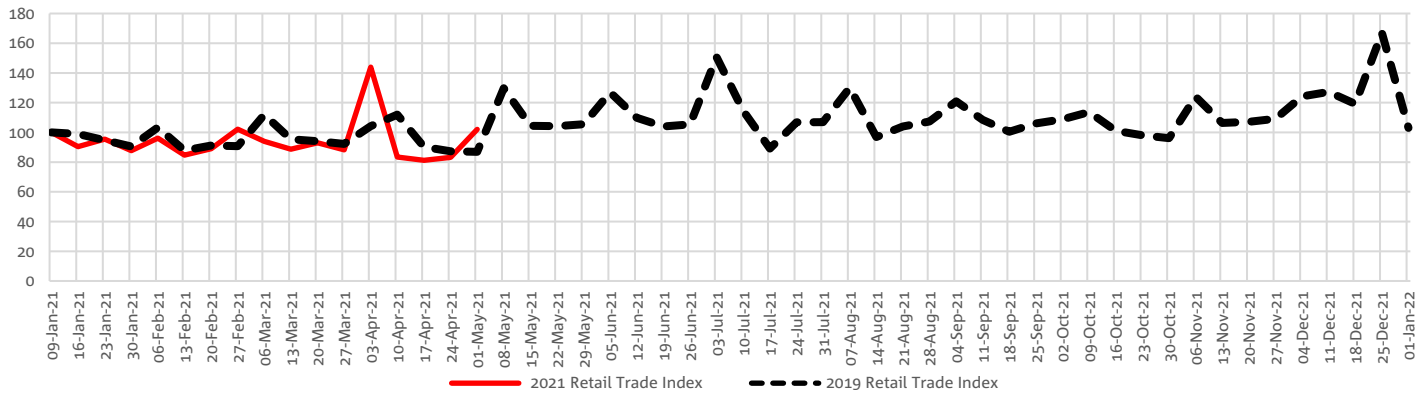
Mining



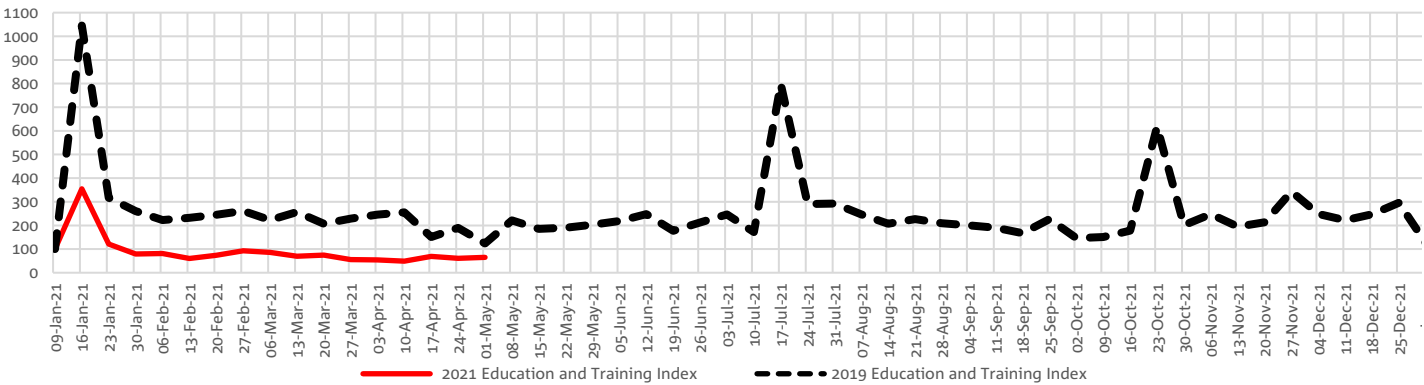
Construction



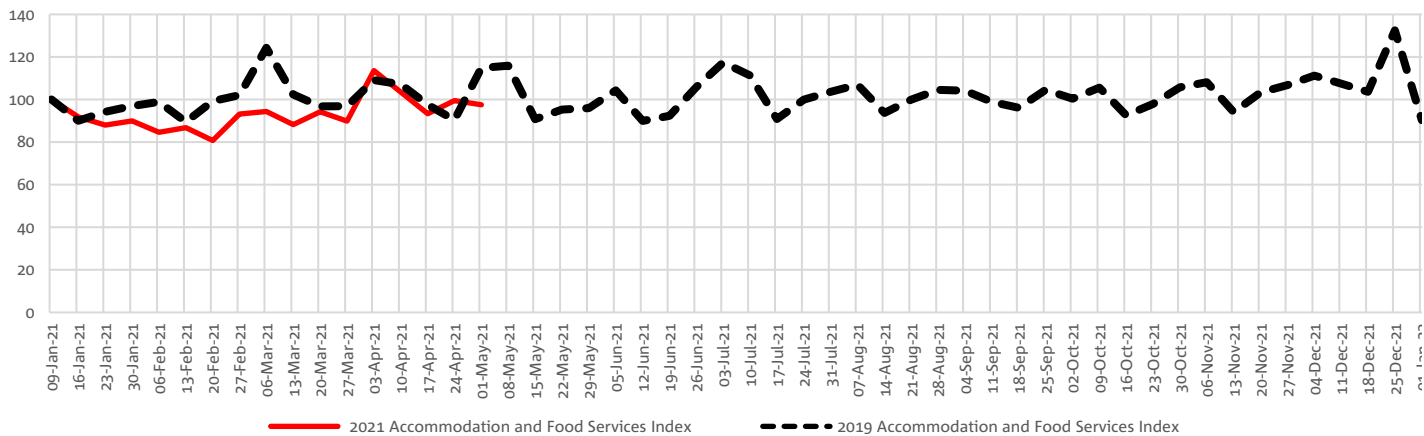
Retail



Education



Hospitality



AUTHORS

Alan Oster

Group Chief Economist
Alan.Oster@nab.com.au
+(61 0) 414 444 652

Brien McDonald

Associate Director - Economics
Brien.McDonald@nab.com.au
+(61 0) 455 052 520

Steven Wu

Associate Director - Economics
Steven.A.Wu@nab.com.au
+(61 0) 472 808 952

Dean Pearson

Head of Behavioural & Industry Economics
Dean.Pearson@nab.com.au
+(61 0) 457 517 342

Robert De Iure

Associate Director - Economics
Robert.De.Iure@nab.com.au
+(61 0) 477 723 769

Phin Ziebell

Associate Director - Economics
Phin.Ziebell@nab.com.au
+(61 0) 475 940 662

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