



NAB ECONOMICS DATA INSIGHTS

WEEK ENDING 26 MARCH 2022

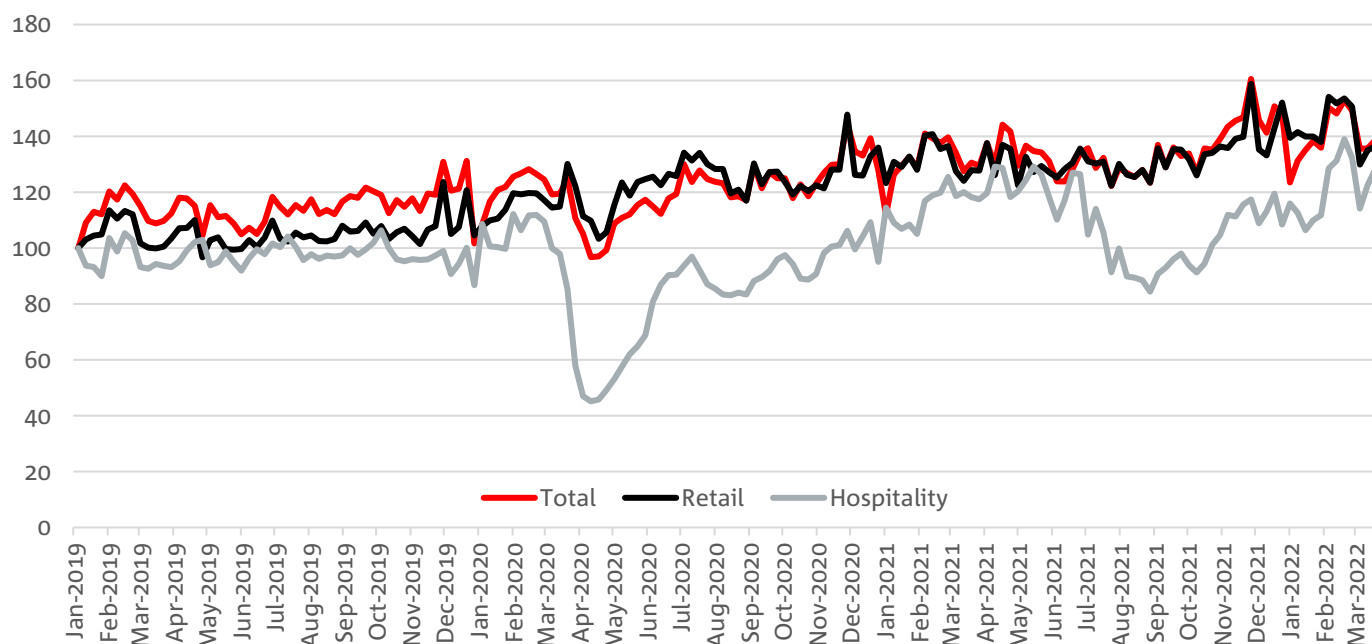
COMMENTS FROM NAB GROUP CHIEF ECONOMIST ALAN OSTER

- Our latest weekly consumer tracking data to 26 March shows something of a mixed bag for spending. The data were softer than the week prior, although up from early March. Consumption is however well below the strong reads we saw in February. While we still see underlying trends remaining mostly encouraging, retail data is now looking weaker than just a month ago. States are showing similar trends at present, with Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia all within a narrow three index point range.
- So, what might be driving this weakness in retail and mixed performance elsewhere? Certainly, there are challenges in seasonally adjusting a weekly data series, so that may have exaggerated some of the February results. But it is more likely that February saw an abnormally strong bounce post-Omicron peak, and that now some “normality” is returning. Also, with inflationary pressures looming, consumers may be more cautious. We have already seen signs that higher petrol prices are boosting transport, while non-discretionary retail lags.
- Overall, our seasonally adjusted consumption series stood at 133.0 for the week ending 26 March 2022, using a 2019 base. This was a decline from the week prior (138.7), although above levels seen a year ago (129.4). Retail stood at 132.7, lower than the week prior (136.5), and below the levels seen in February. Hospitality fell to 121.5, compared to 128.3 the week prior. The hospitality index is above year-ago levels (117.4).
- Our total inward credits data rose last week but is now trending much closer to 2021 levels after a very strong start to the year. One bright spot to note is education. The pandemic decimated international education, but students have started to return this year. Education business inflows remain below 2019, but are getting closer to pre-pandemic levels.

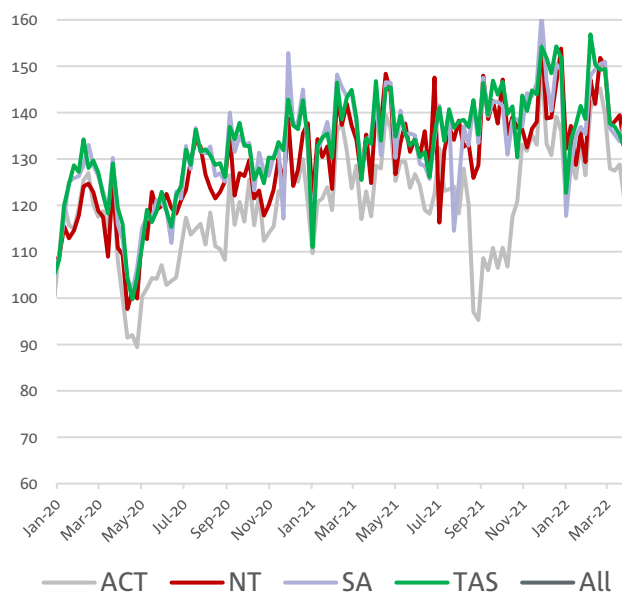
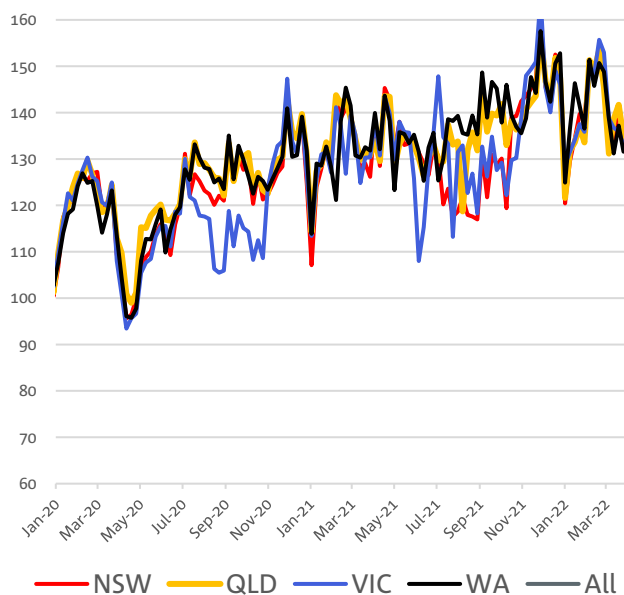
ABOUT THE REPORT

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.

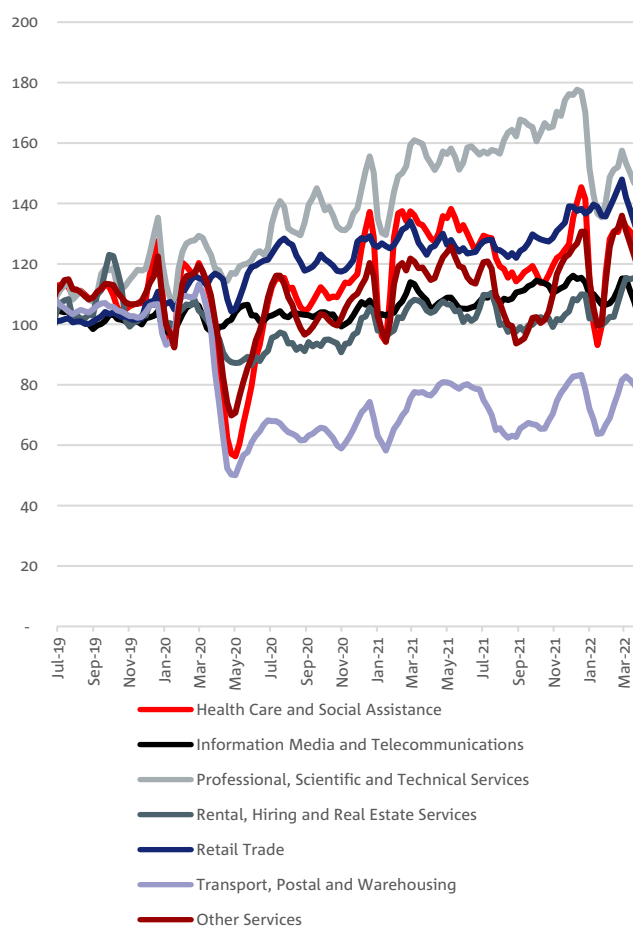
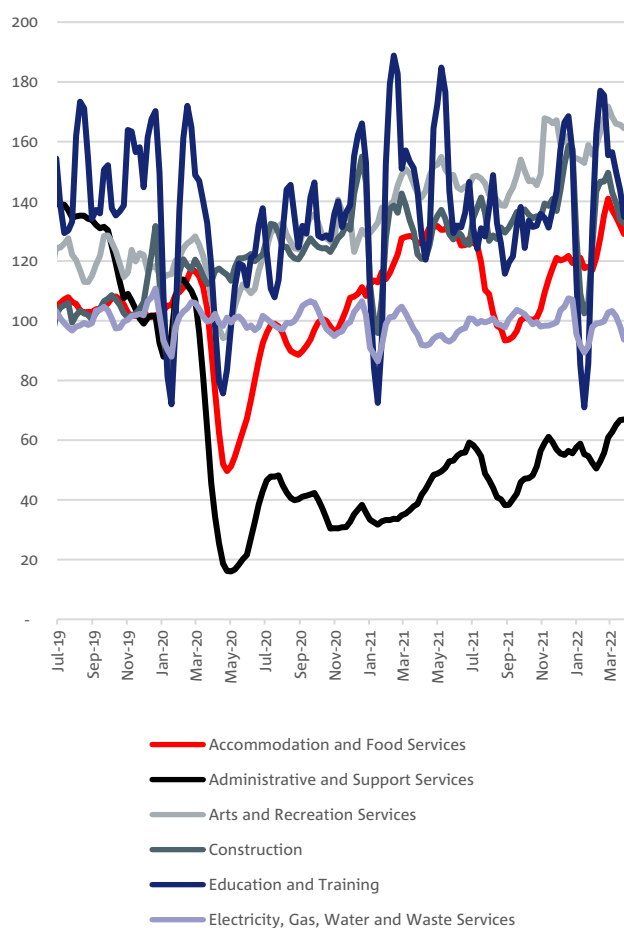
WEEKLY INDEX- JANUARY 2019 BASE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED



CONSUMPTION BY STATE (INDEX, 2019 BASE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

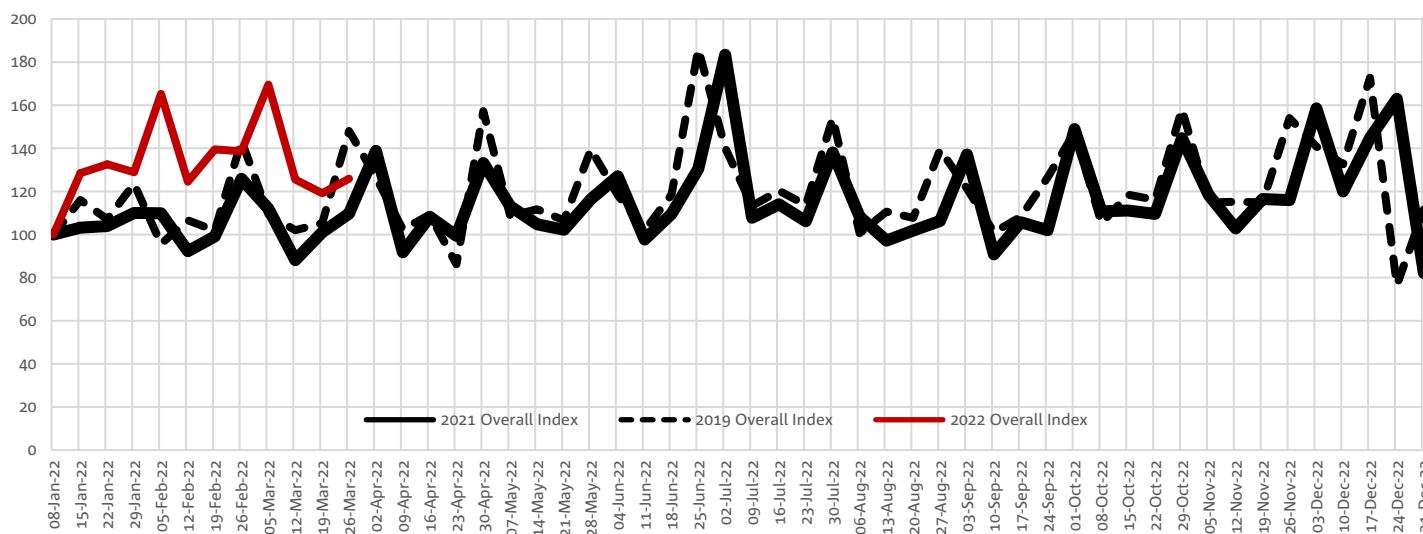


CONSUMPTION BY INDUSTRY (INDEX, 2019 BASE, 4 WK MOVING AVERAGE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

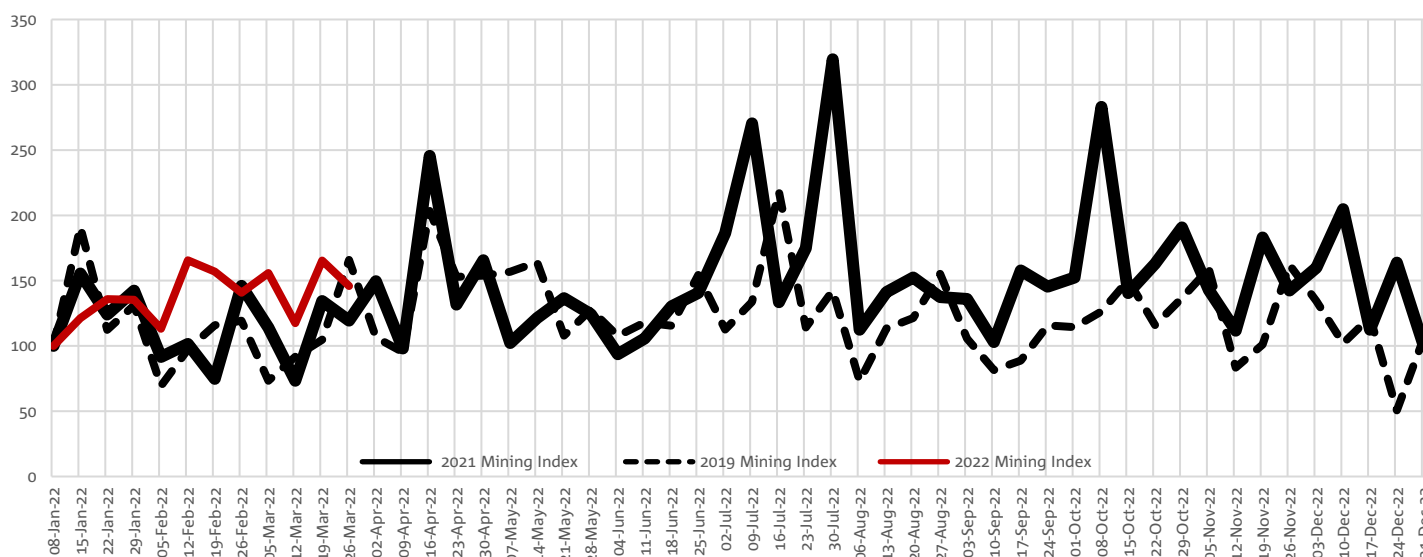


PAYMENT INFLOWS INTO NAB MERCHANTS – BASE RESET ANNUALLY

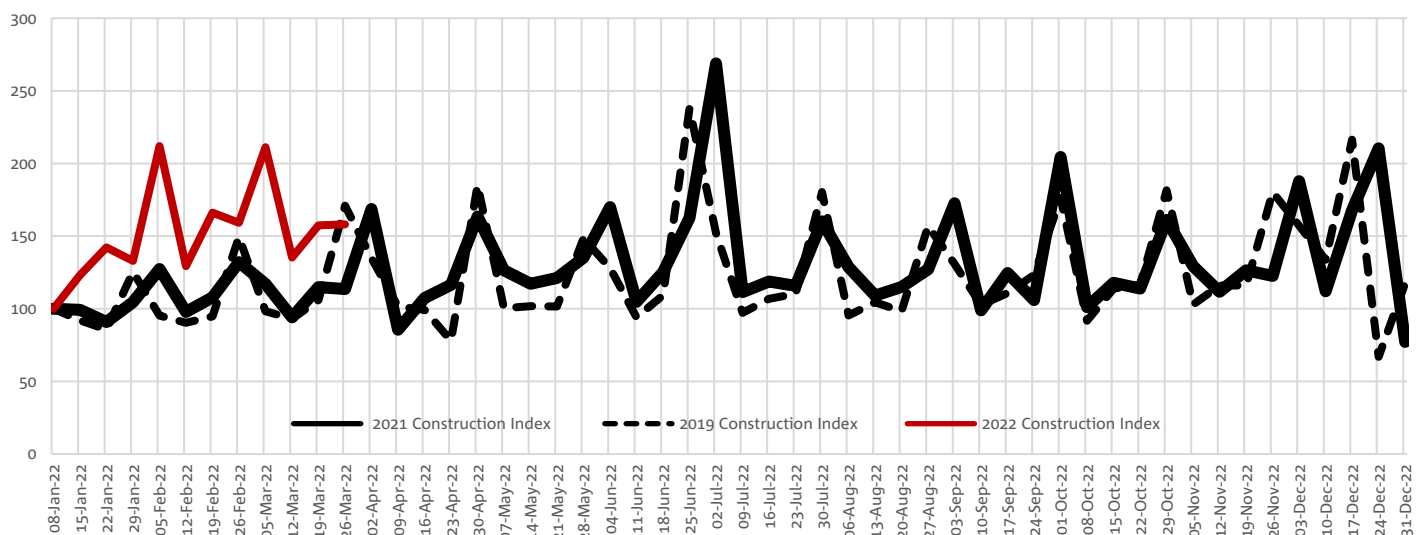
Overall



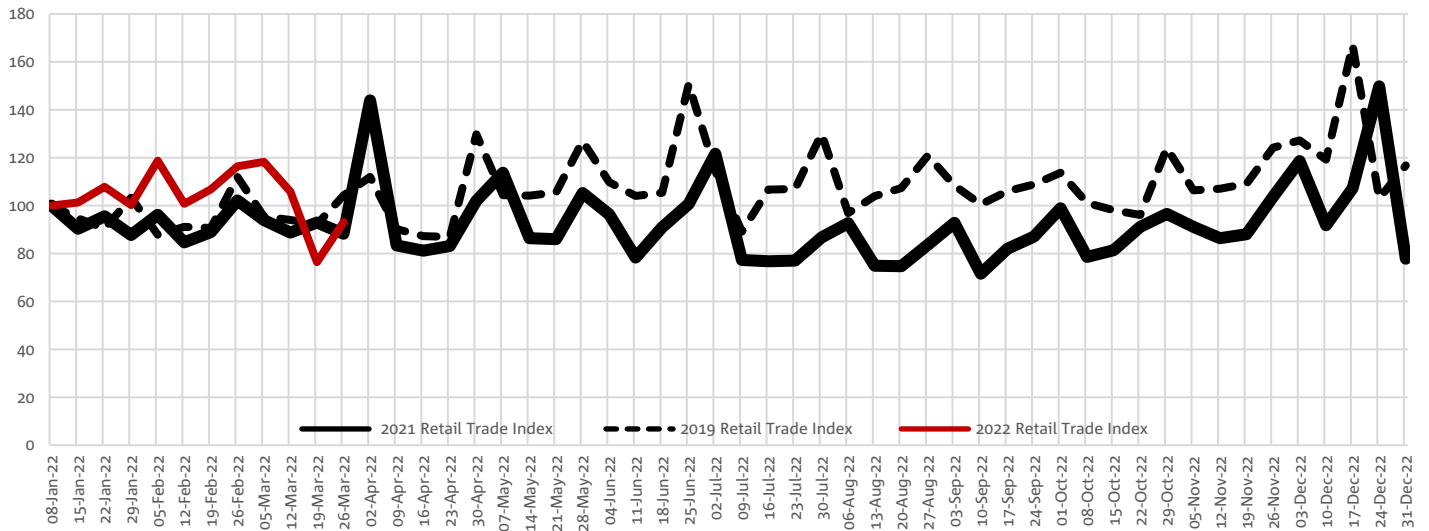
Mining



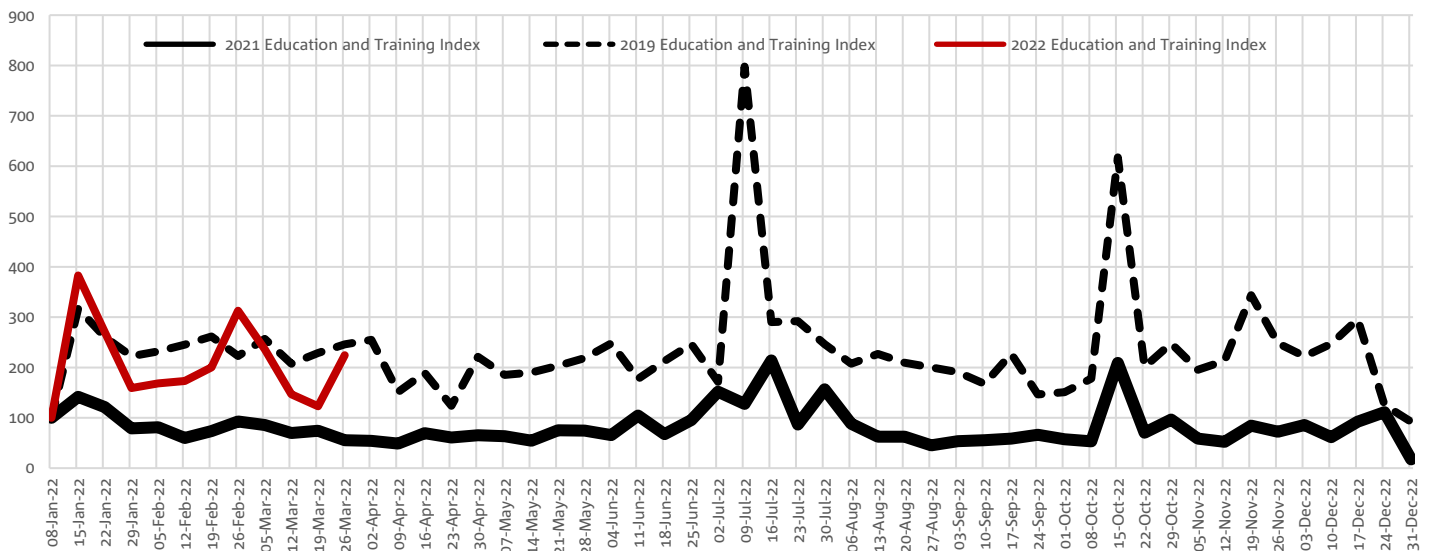
Construction



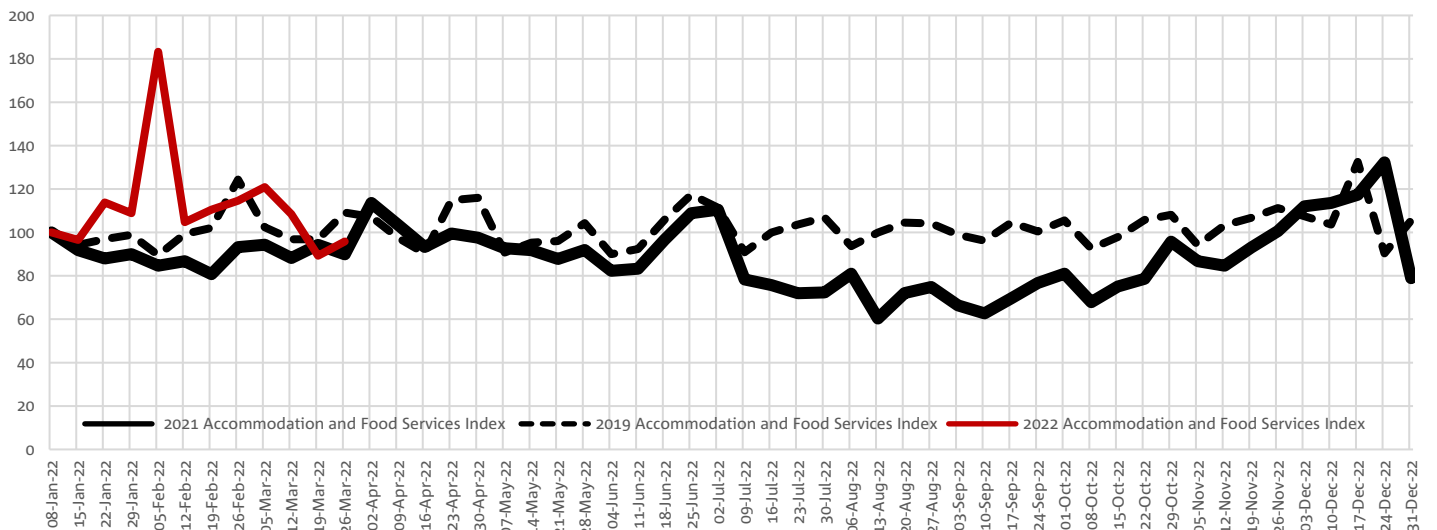
Retail



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

Important Notice

This document has been prepared by National Australia Bank Limited ABN 12 004 044 937 AFSL 230686 ("NAB"). Any advice contained in this document has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any advice in this document, NAB recommends that you consider whether the advice is appropriate for your circumstances.

NAB recommends that you obtain and consider the relevant Product Disclosure Statement or other disclosure document, before making any decision about a product including whether to acquire or to continue to hold it.

Please click [here](#) to view our disclaimer and terms of use.