

NAB Monthly Data Insights February 2025



NAB Economics

Key Points

- Our data shows that spending was more subdued in the first two months of 2025 after a pickup in Q4 2024.
- **Consumer spending**, according to NAB’s transaction data, went down 0.3% in February, which was driven by a decrease in spending on services.
- **Retail** spending went up by 0.4% m/m after a decrease of 0.4% last month. Total retail increased 1.1% in 3-month average terms and 5.5% over the past 12 months.
- **Non-discretionary spending** decreased 0.3% and **discretionary spending** decreased 0.2%.
- Overall, consumer spending increased 1.3% in 3-month average terms and 4.7% over the past 12 months.
- **Business credits** decreased 2.2% in February. Business credits increased by 8.9% over the past 12 months, or 8.7% excluding mining and agriculture.

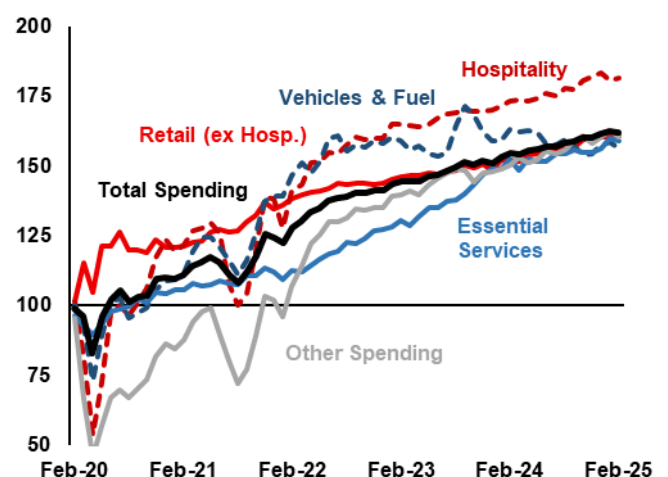
Monthly Consumer Spending

- Total spending declined 0.3% m/m. January m/m growth was revised from -0.3% to 0.5% for total spending and from -0.8% to -0.4% for retail due to additional spending captured. Overall, total consumer spending increased 1.3% in 3-month average terms and 4.7% over the past 12 months.
- Retail spending went up 0.4%, which was driven by increases in both goods retail (0.3%) and cafes & restaurant (0.6%). For detail on retail spending, see [page 3](#).
- Spending on vehicles & fuel decreased 1.6%. Spending on essential services and other spending also declined 0.5% and 1.2% respectively. **Insurance** spending is included from this month and is categorised as essential services and non-discretionary. For details on non-retail categories, see [page 4](#).
- Services spending declined 0.6% while goods spending was broadly unchanged. Discretionary spending decreased 0.2% and non-discretionary spending fell 0.3%.

Table 1: Key Consumer Spending Growth Statistics (%)

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Goods Retail	0.3	-0.2	0.3	1.1	5.6
Cafes & Restaurants	0.9	-1.6	0.6	1.1	5.0
Total Retail	0.4	-0.4	0.4	1.1	5.5
Vehicles & Fuel	2.2	0.6	-1.6	1.5	-4.4
Essential Services	1.0	2.1	-0.5	2.0	4.2
Other Spending	1.4	1.4	-1.2	1.2	6.8
Total Spending	0.9	0.5	-0.3	1.3	4.7
Goods	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.2	4.1
Services	1.2	1.0	-0.6	1.5	5.4
Discretionary	0.9	0.0	-0.2	1.2	6.5
Non-Discretionary	0.8	1.1	-0.3	1.5	2.3
Total ex Fuel	0.8	0.4	-0.2	1.3	5.4

Chart 1: Consumer Spending Index (Jan 2020 = 100)



Note: Spending data excludes taxes, rent, mortgages, gambling, finance, and other non-consumer transactions. Data are seasonally adjusted and subject to revision. “Goods” includes goods retail, vehicles and fuel, and “services” includes all other categories. “Non-discretionary” includes food, health, insurance, education, utilities, media & comms, and fuel, and “discretionary” includes all other categories.

Chart 2: Total Spending Growth (%)

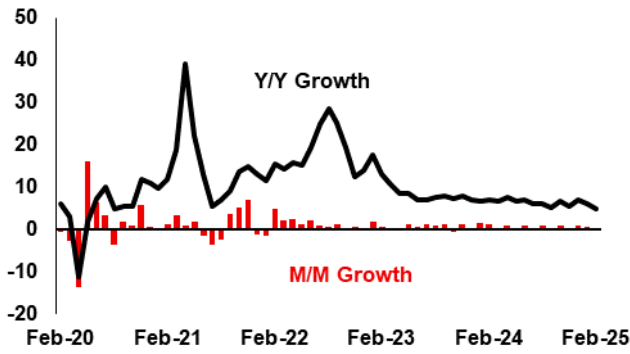


Chart 3: Comparison to ABS Consumption Growth (%)

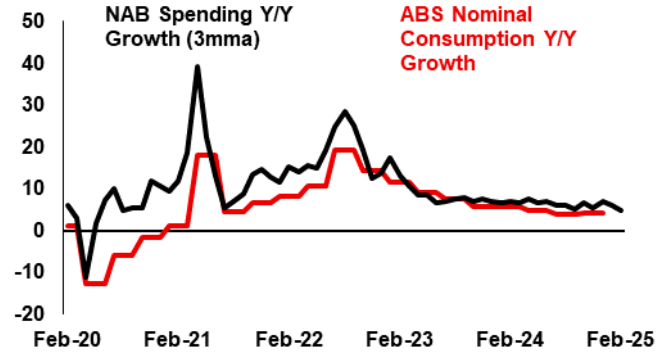


Chart 4: Goods vs Services Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

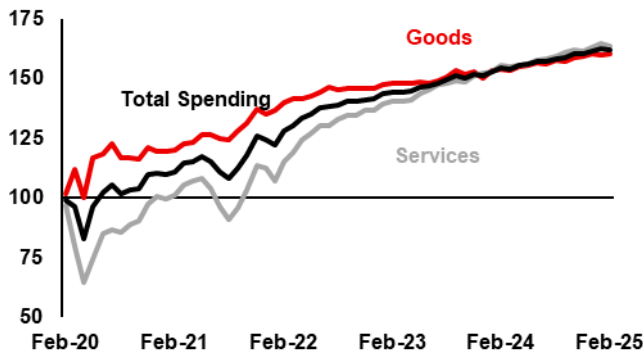
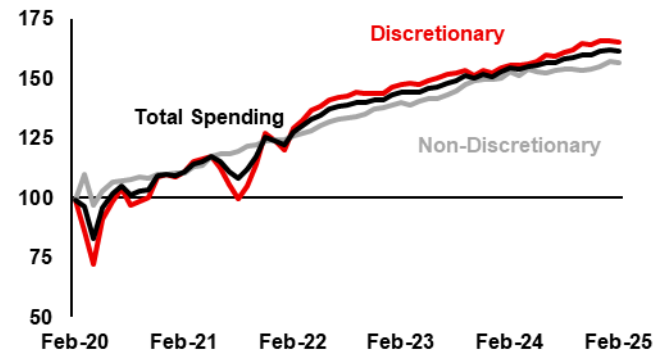


Chart 5: Discretionary Spending Index (Jan 2020 = 100)



Monthly Consumer Spending – Detail by State

- Spending went down in all states except for WA (0.1%) in January.
- The strongest decline was in SA (-1.8%) and NT (-0.9%). Spending decreased in VIC (-0.2%) and NSW (-0.1%).

Table 2: Spending Growth by State (%)

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
NSW	-0.1	1.5	-0.1	1.8	6.1
VIC	-0.3	1.4	-0.2	1.8	4.4
QLD	0.4	1.4	-0.5	1.7	5.2
WA	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	6.9
SA	-1.2	2.2	-1.8	1.0	3.6
TAS	-0.6	2.5	-0.1	1.4	5.2
ACT	0.4	1.2	-0.6	1.9	4.9
NT	1.5	2.0	-0.9	3.4	7.8

Chart 6: Spending by State (Index, Jan 2020 = 100)

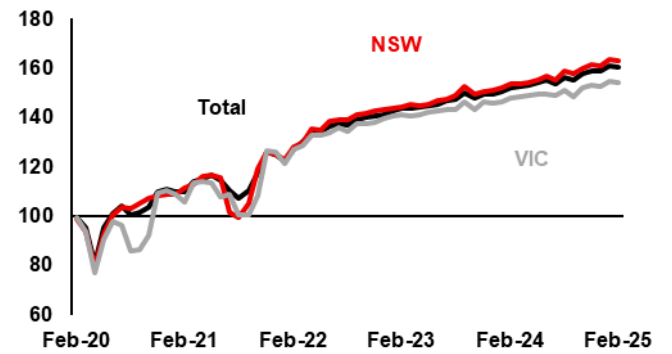


Chart 7: Spending by State (Index, Jan 2020 = 100)

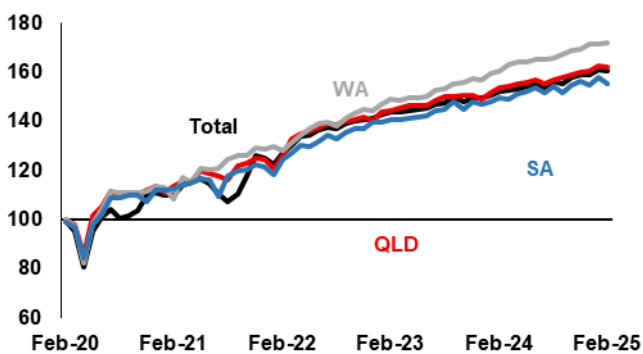
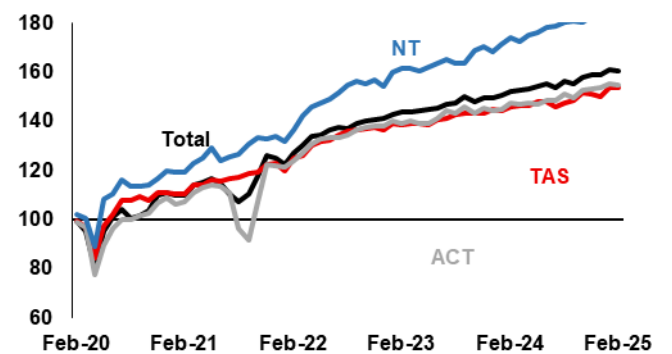


Chart 8: Spending by State (Index, Jan 2020 = 100)



Note: State spending totals differ from industry totals due to availability of geographic information. Spending data excludes taxes, rent, mortgages, gambling, finance and other non-consumer transactions. Data are seasonally adjusted and subject to revision.

Monthly Consumer Spending - Retail Sector Detail

- Retail spending increased 0.4% after a decrease last month. Spending grew in both goods (0.3%) and cafes & restaurant (0.6%). Total retail spending increased 1.1% in three-month average terms and 5.5% y/y.
- Goods retail grew 0.3% with increases in all sub-categories such as department stores (0.9%), food (0.4%) and household goods (0.5%), which was partially offset by a decrease of 0.5% in clothing. Overall goods retail spending went up 1.1% in three-month-average terms and 5.6% y/y.
- Hospitality spending increased 1.1% in three-month-average terms and 5.0% y/y.

Table 3: Retail Spending Growth (%)

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Food	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.8	3.3
Hhld Goods	0.3	-0.3	0.5	1.4	7.7
Clothing	0.7	-1.6	-0.5	0.5	3.4
Dept. Stores	-1.0	-0.4	0.9	-0.2	3.5
Other Retail	0.7	0.3	0.1	1.8	9.1
Total Goods Retail	0.3	-0.2	0.3	1.1	5.6
Cafes & Restaurants	0.9	-1.6	0.6	1.1	5.0
Total Retail	0.4	-0.4	0.4	1.1	5.5

Chart 9: Retail Spending Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

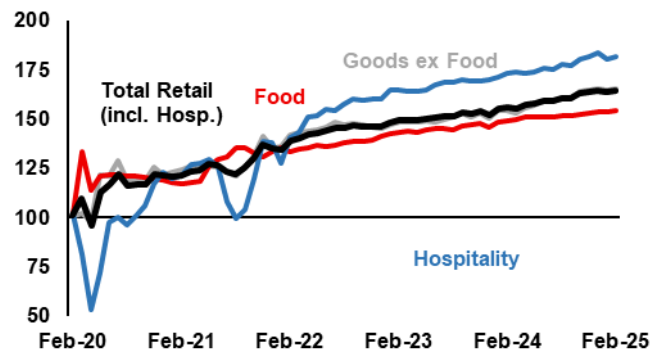


Chart 10: Total Retail Spending Growth (%)

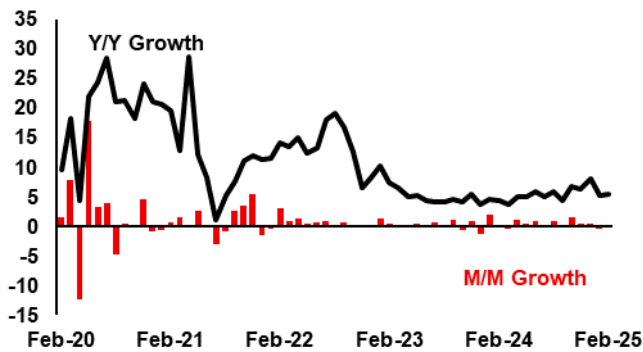


Chart 11: Comparison to ABS Retail Sales Growth (%)

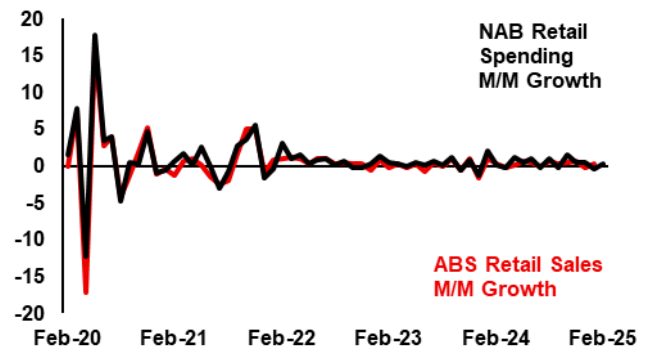


Chart 12: Contribution to Monthly Growth (%)

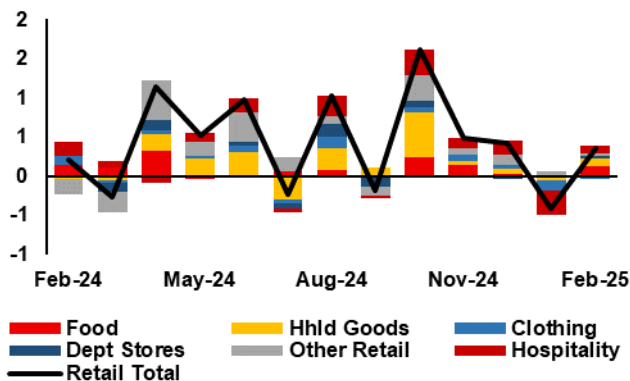
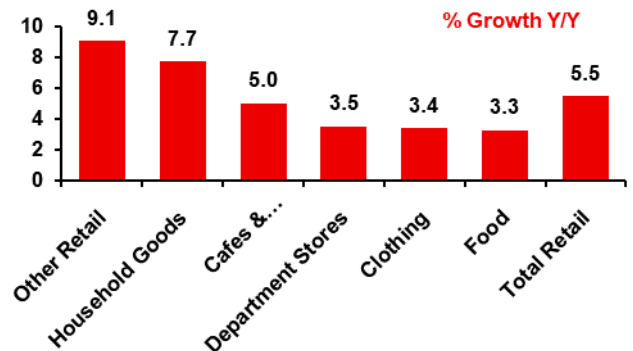


Chart 13: Y/Y Growth, Retail Subcategories



Note: Data are seasonally adjusted and subject to revision.

Monthly Spending – Detail for Non-Retail Subcategories

- Spending on vehicles & fuel in February went down 1.6% with decreases in both vehicles (-0.9%) and fuel (-2.0%).
- Spending on essential services declined 0.5% in February. Spending decreased in all sub-categories except for utilities (0.6%). Overall, spending on essential services grew 2.0% in three-month average terms and 4.2% in the past 12 months.
- Starting this month, we are including insurance spending as part of essential services. Since 2020, insurance has experienced the strongest growth among essential services. However, it increased by 5.3% over the past 12 months, which is generally in line with other essential services, except for utilities. Spending on utilities decreased over the past year due to energy bill relief.
- Other spending fell 1.2% with an increase of 3.2% in professional services, offset by decreases in all other sub-categories. Other spending declined most in arts, recreation and travel (-4.0%) and construction (-2.0%). Overall, other spending went up 1.2% in three-month average terms and 6.8% year-on-year.

Table 4: Spending Growth by Subcategory (excl. Retail) (%)

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Vehicles	1.1	-0.9	-0.9	0.3	2.5
Fuel	2.9	1.4	-2.0	2.2	-7.6
Vehicles & Fuel Total	2.2	0.6	-1.6	1.5	-4.4
Education	1.2	-0.3	-0.4	-1.1	6.6
Utilities	2.3	0.7	0.6	2.7	-5.1
Insurance	0.3	3.4	-0.8	2.4	5.3
Health & Care	0.5	3.2	-0.4	2.2	6.3
Media & Comms	1.9	0.4	-1.1	2.5	5.9
Essential Svcs Total	1.0	2.1	-0.5	2.0	4.2

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Arts, Rec. & Travel	1.1	2.5	-4.0	-0.4	7.9
Construction	-0.1	1.9	-2.0	-0.6	-2.7
Professional Services	1.7	-0.4	3.2	0.6	7.2
Transport & Postal	1.1	2.1	-0.7	3.6	7.9
Other Services	2.2	0.5	-0.5	2.1	5.9
Other Spending Total	1.4	1.4	-1.2	1.2	6.8

Chart 14: Y/Y Growth, Non-Retail Subcategories

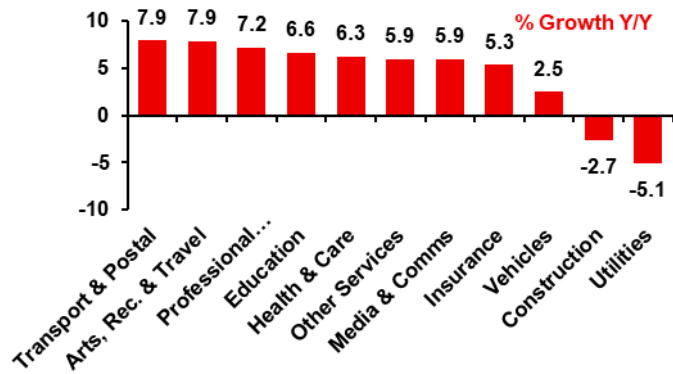


Chart 15: Vehicles & Fuel Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

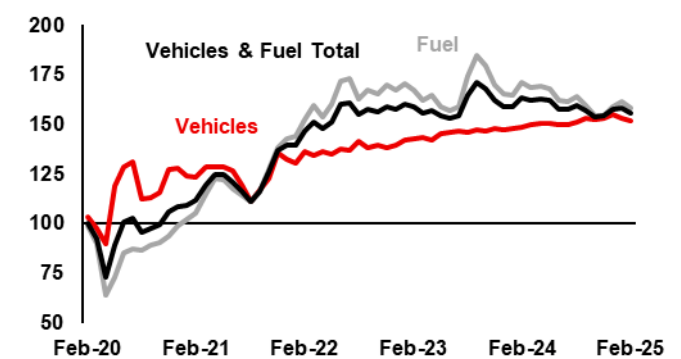


Chart 16: Essential Services Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

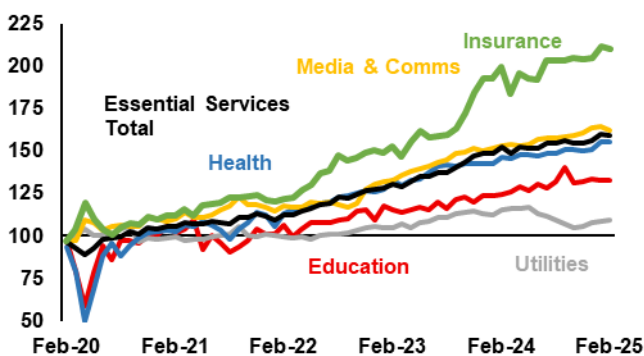
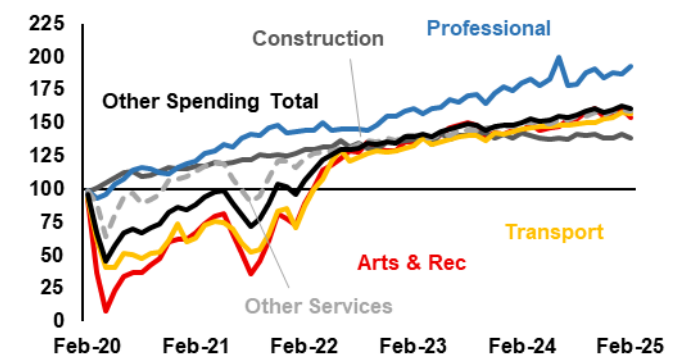


Chart 17: Other Spending Index (Jan 2020 = 100)



Note: Data are seasonally adjusted and subject to revision. 'Arts, Recreation & Travel' amalgamates Arts & Recreation Services, Accommodation (as Food Services are captured separately under Retail) and Travel Agencies (which make up the bulk of consumer Administration & Support Services spending). 'Other Services' includes some residual Administration & Support Services and Rental, Hiring & Real Estate services.

Monthly Business Credits

- Business credits went down 2.5% m/m in February. January month-on-month growth was revised from -0.7% to 1.1%.
- The highest m/m growth was in mining (2.4%), education (1.7%) and other services (0.6%), offset by decreases in info & media (-8.6%), agriculture (-5.3%) and transport & postal (-4.5%)
- Overall, business credits increased 8.9% in the last 12 months, or 8.7% excluding mining and agriculture.

Table 5: Business Credits Growth by Industry (%)

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Total	1.9	1.5	-2.2	3.1	8.9
<i>Total ex Mining & Agri</i>	2.0	1.1	-2.5	2.6	8.7
Accom & Food	0.8	-0.9	-0.9	0.9	4.2
Admin & Support	1.2	-1.6	0.1	0.9	-0.4
Agriculture	0.6	1.5	-5.3	2.7	13.2
Arts & Rec.	-0.9	0.3	-2.0	-1.1	1.2
Construction	1.8	1.1	-4.3	2.8	13.1
Education	-1.5	-0.8	1.7	-4.8	3.0
Utilities	3.4	-2.9	-3.8	2.7	31.6

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Health	1.3	2.4	-0.8	2.9	9.2
Info & Media	3.1	6.8	-8.6	9.8	30.5
Manufacturing	2.9	0.1	-1.9	1.9	1.2
Mining	1.5	5.9	2.4	8.9	8.1
Other Services	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.8	18.0
Professional Services	1.7	-0.1	-2.9	0.9	9.1
Rental & Real Estate	1.9	4.7	-3.1	4.5	13.5
Retail Trade	1.5	1.3	0.5	2.5	5.2
Transport & Postal	6.7	-0.9	-4.5	7.4	18.9
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	-4.3	2.4	4.2

Chart 18: Business Credits Growth (%)

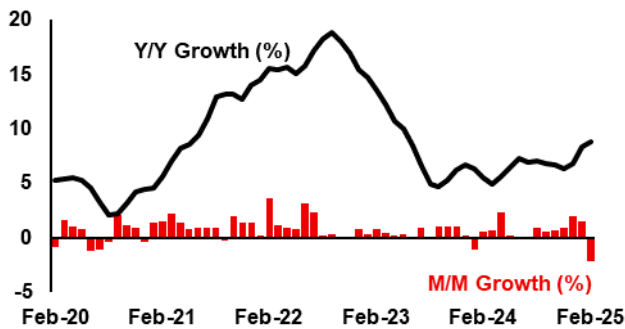


Chart 19: Business Credits Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

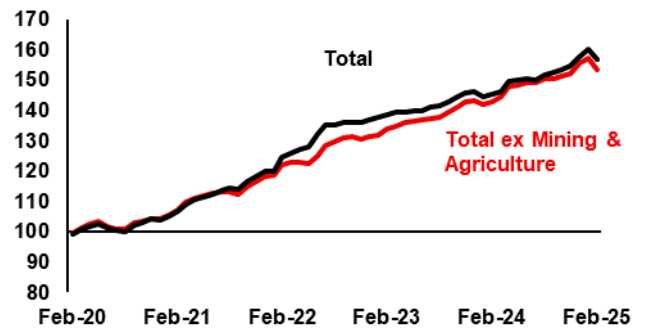


Chart 20: Credits Index by Industry (Jan 2020 = 100)

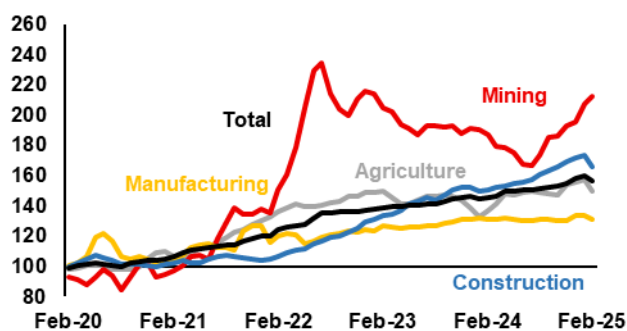


Chart 21: Credits Index by Industry (Jan 2020 = 100)

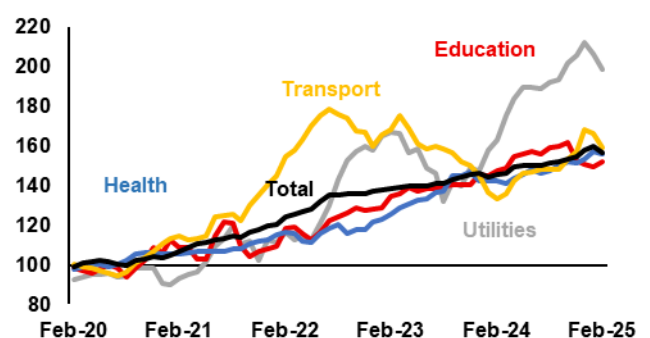


Chart 22: Credits Index by Industry (Jan 2020 = 100)

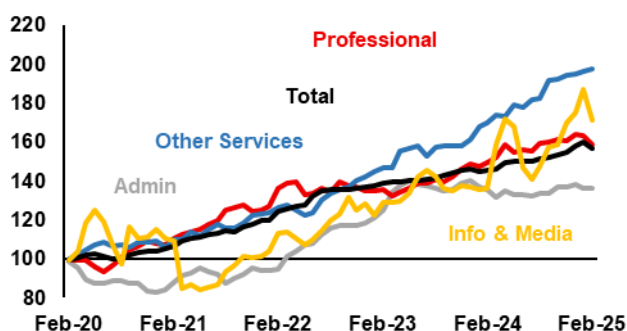
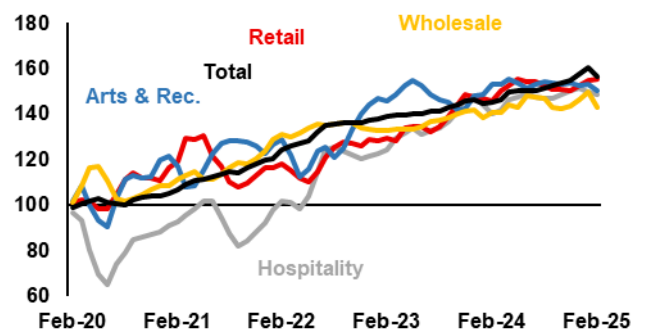


Chart 23: Credits Index by Industry (Jan 2020 = 100)



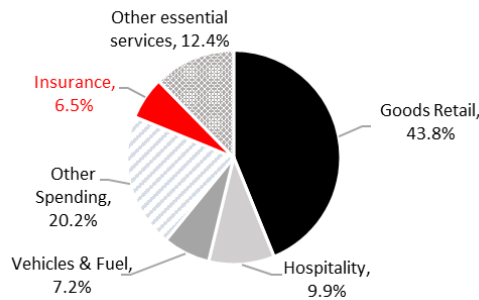
Note: All data calculated as a three-month moving average of seasonally adjusted monthly data.

Inclusion of Insurance spending in NAB Monthly Data Insights

We are introducing insurance spending data as part of our monthly data insights report. The Insurance spending includes spendings on general insurance such as car and home insurance, health insurance, life insurance and auxiliary insurance services. Insurance spending is categorised as essential services and non-discretionary in this report.

This addition aims to provide a clearer picture of how and where consumers are allocating their spending. Insurance now accounts for 6.5% of total spending in February 2025, a figure comparable to spending on vehicles and fuel and about half of the other essential services spending. We believe these insights will offer valuable context and further enhance our understanding of consumer spending patterns.

Share of monthly spending – February 2025



Insurance spending is categorised as essential services and non-discretionary in this report. The inclusion of Insurance will affect Table 1, Table 4 and Chart 16. The inclusion of insurance spending drove up the y/y growth of essential services and non-discretionary spending by 0.5 percentage point while the y/y growth of total spending was broadly unchanged.

Historical data has been updated to include insurance spending. As a result, the growth reflects the adjustments in spending patterns rather than changes in the series structure. This ensures consistency in tracking spending trends moving forward.

Table 1: Key Consumer Spending Growth Statistics (%) – Key changes

	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25		Y/Y without insurance
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m y/y	
Goods Retail	0.3	-0.2	0.3	1.1	5.6
Cafes & Restaurants	0.9	-1.6	0.6	1.1	5.0
Total Retail	0.4	-0.4	0.4	1.1	5.5
Vehicles & Fuel	2.2	0.6	-1.6	1.5	-4.4
Essential Services	1.0	2.1	-0.5	2.0	3.7
Other Spending	1.4	1.4	-1.2	1.2	6.8
Total Spending	0.9	0.5	-0.3	1.3	4.7
Goods	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.2	4.1
Services	1.2	1.0	-0.6	1.5	5.4
Discretionary	0.9	0.0	-0.2	1.2	6.5
Non-Discretionary	0.8	1.1	-0.3	1.5	2.3
Total ex Fuel	0.8	0.4	-0.2	1.3	5.4

Chart 16: Essential Services Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

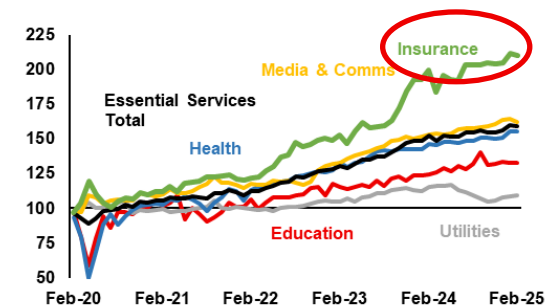


Table 4: Spending Growth by Subcategory (excl. Retail) (%) – Key changes

	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25			Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25			
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m y/y		m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m y/y		
Vehicles	0.4	1.1	-1.5	0.8	2.3	Arts, Rec. & Travel	0.0	1.4	1.4	2.9	11.1
Fuel	0.3	3.0	1.0	-0.5	-2.8	Construction	-1.7	-0.1	0.4	-1.5	0.3
Vehicles & Fuel Total	0.4	2.3	0.2	-0.1	-1.1	Professional Services	-4.0	1.6	-1.7	-0.9	5.1
Education	0.5	1.0	-2.9	-2.4	2.6	Transport & Postal	2.0	1.1	1.4	3.3	9.1
Utilities	-0.6	2.3	-0.1	0.1	-5.0	Other Services	-1.2	2.2	-0.4	1.3	7.0
Insurance	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	5.9	Other Spending Total	-0.7	1.5	0.4	1.8	8.2
Health & Care	-0.4	0.5	2.7	1.5	8.4						
Media & Comms	1.5	2.0	0.2	2.9	7.6						
Essential Svcs Total	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.8	4.9						

About this report

NAB publishes aggregated customer transaction data with the view to providing real-time insights into economic activity in Australia. 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 underlying data used in this report are not sold or made publicly available. This monthly report replaced the fortnightly *Data Insights* report and the monthly *NAB Cashless Retail Sales Index*, which were discontinued in October 2022.

Consumer Spending Methodology

Data on consumer spending are derived from NAB electronic transactions data, encompassing more than 4 million transactions per day. The data include transactions made by EFTPOS, Credit Card, BPAY, Bank Transfers, Direct Debits and Paypal services where available, and include transactions with Australian and international merchants. Spending includes both online and offline transactions. The data excludes cash withdrawals made during a purchase and purchases made offline in an overseas location. As the data only capture electronic transactions, results can be affected by changes in the take-up rate of electronic payment methods relative to cash. State splits of spending are based on where the customer lives, which may or may not be where the actual spending activity occurs. Customers without an Australian residential address are excluded. Transactions attributable to non-consumer sectors including Manufacturing, Mining, and Wholesale are excluded, as are Financial & Insurance Services (excluding General Insurance, Health Insurance, Life Insurance and Auxiliary Insurance Services) transactions and Public Administration transactions (largely tax payments). Gambling spending and rental and mortgage payments are also excluded. Opportunities to expand coverage to include spending in these areas will be explored in the future. Individual industry and state series are seasonally adjusted using the X-11 method.

Business Inward Credits Methodology

Data on business inward credits are derived from credits paid into the accounts of NAB business banking customers and are intended to approximate business revenues. Data do not account for business expenses and therefore are not reflective of profits or margins. Credits related to financing arrangements and capital raising are excluded where possible. Industry growth rates can also be affected by significant changes in the composition of NAB's business banking customer base. Businesses in the Financial & Insurance Services sector and Public Administration & Safety are excluded. Individual industry series are seasonally adjusted using the X-11 method and a three-month moving average is used to smooth volatility related to the timing of payments made to businesses. History for these series are limited and as such seasonal variation remains difficult to capture accurately. Opportunities to extend the available history to improve analysis will be explored in the future.

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