

NAB Monthly Data Insights

May 2025



NAB Economics

Key Points

- **Consumer spending** rose 1.2% in May, a marked acceleration from subdued growth of 0.2% in April.
- Goods retail spending increased 1.2%, rebounding from last month's weak performance. Meanwhile, spending on cafes & restaurant slowed to 0.4% following a strong growth in April. **Retail spending** went up 1.1% in May, 1.5% in 3-month average terms and 6.8% over the past 12 months.
- **Discretionary spending** rose 1.5%, and **non-discretionary spending** grew 0.7%
- Both official (ABS) and NAB data have reflected a weaker-than-expected consumer spending in the first four months of the year. In this context, our data for May are a welcome improvement and tentatively suggest that spending may have picked up as we move through the second quarter. However, a more sustained and broad-based recovery will depend on the evolution of consumer and business confidence throughout the rest of the year.

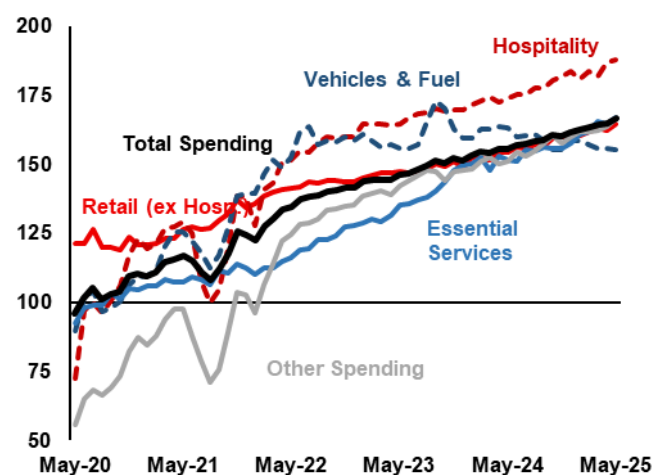
Monthly Consumer Spending

- Total spending grew 1.2% m/m in May. Overall, total consumer spending increased 1.8% in 3-month average terms and 7.2% over the past 12 months.
- Retail rebounded 1.1% m/m with a strong growth in goods retail (1.2%) while hospitality spending slowed to 0.4%. For detail on retail, see **page 3**.
- Spending increased in both essential services (1.4%) and other spending category (1.7%). This was offset by a decrease of 0.2% in vehicles & fuel. For detail on non-retail categories, see **page 4**.
- Goods spending increased 1.0% and services spending went up 1.3%. Discretionary spending increased 1.5% and non-discretionary spending grew 0.7%.

Table 1: Key Consumer Spending Growth Statistics (%)

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Goods Retail	0.8	-0.4	1.2	1.5	6.5
Cafes & Restaurants	-0.9	2.8	0.4	1.6	8.1
Total Retail	0.5	0.2	1.1	1.5	6.8
Vehicles & Fuel	-0.9	0.0	-0.2	-1.6	-4.7
Essential Services	2.4	-0.6	1.4	3.6	10.0
Other Spending	0.4	0.9	1.7	1.9	10.3
Total Spending	0.8	0.2	1.2	1.8	7.2
Goods	0.6	-0.3	1.0	1.0	4.8
Services	0.9	0.7	1.3	2.5	9.7
Discretionary	0.1	0.8	1.5	1.5	8.7
Non-Discretionary	1.7	-0.8	0.7	2.1	5.1
Total ex Fuel	0.8	0.2	1.3	2.0	8.1

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 (%)

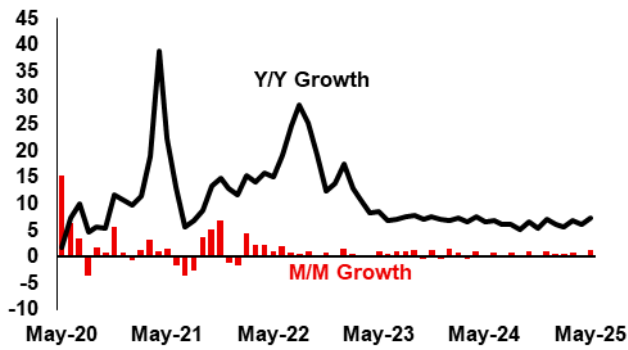


Chart 3: Comparison to ABS Consumption Growth (%)

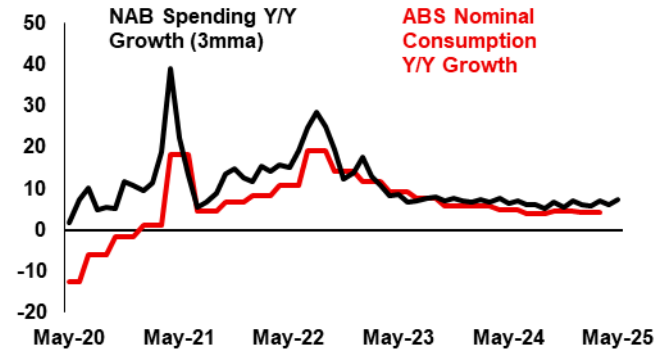


Chart 4: Goods vs Services Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

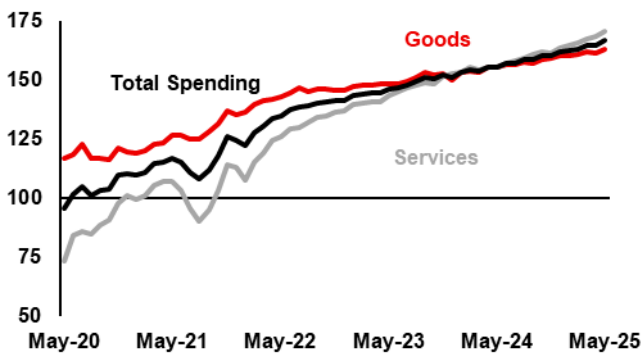
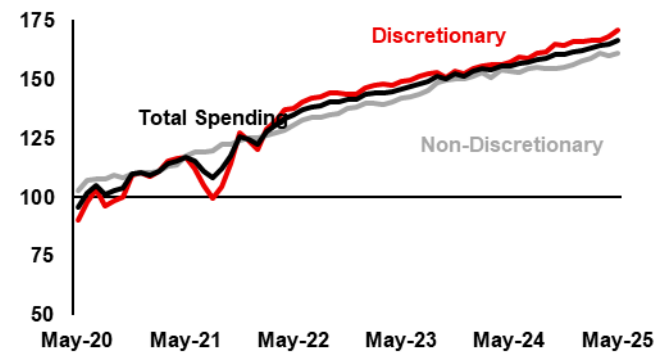


Chart 5: Discretionary Spending Index (Jan 2020 = 100)



Monthly Consumer Spending – Detail by State

- Spending increased across all states in May.
- The strongest growth was recorded in VIC (2.2%) and SA (2.2%) while NSW saw the smallest increase at 1.3%.

Table 2: Spending Growth by State (%)

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
NSW	0.4	-0.3	1.3	1.5	7.4
VIC	0.9	-1.2	2.2	1.6	6.2
QLD	-0.2	1.8	1.4	2.1	8.4
WA	1.1	0.1	1.5	2.3	8.8
SA	1.3	-0.5	2.2	2.0	6.5
TAS	0.7	-0.1	1.3	2.4	6.9
ACT	1.1	-0.8	1.6	1.5	7.7
NT	2.1	-1.0	1.5	2.4	9.8

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

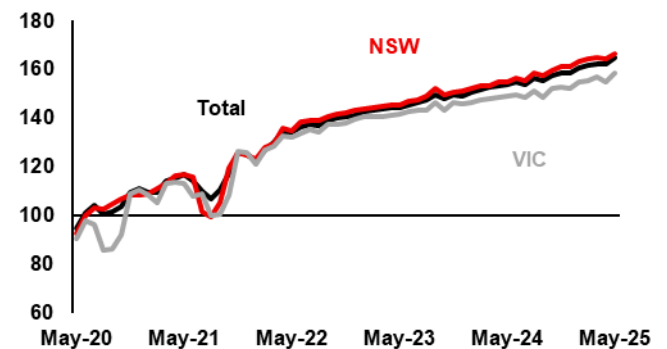


Chart 7: Spending by State (Index, Jan 2020 = 100)

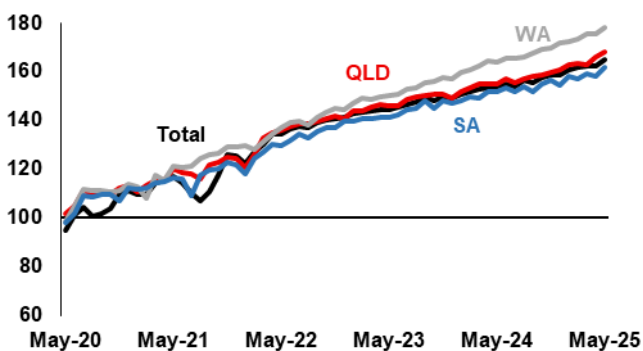
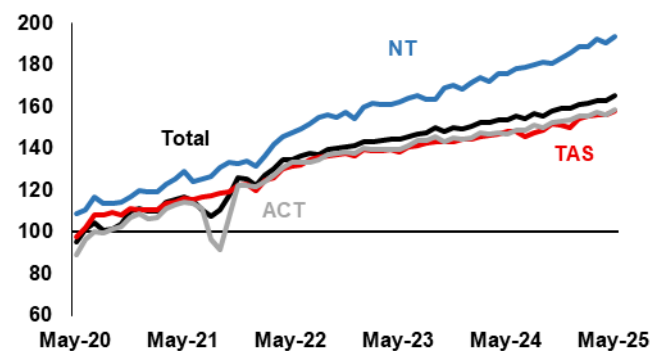


Chart 8: Spending by State (Index, Jan 2020 = 100)



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 1.2% driven by a rebound in spending on goods retail (1.2%). Spending growth in cafes & restaurants slowed to 0.4%. Total retail spending increased 1.5% in three-month average terms and 6.8% y/y.
- Goods retail increased 1.2% after a decline of 0.4% last month. We saw a strong rebound in spending on department stores (4.8%) and spending on clothing (2.5%). Overall, goods retail spending lifted 1.5% in three-month-average terms and 6.5% y/y.
- Hospitality spending grew 0.4% in May, after a strong growth last month.

Table 3: Retail Spending Growth (%)

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Food	1.6	-1.0	0.4	1.8	3.9
Hhld Goods	0.7	0.9	1.0	2.3	9.5
Clothing	0.4	-1.2	2.5	-0.4	4.4
Dept. Stores	0.0	-2.4	4.8	0.7	6.6
Other Retail	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.0	8.9
Total Goods Retail	0.8	-0.4	1.2	1.5	6.5
Cafes & Restaurants	-0.9	2.8	0.4	1.6	8.1
Total Retail	0.5	0.2	1.1	1.5	6.8

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

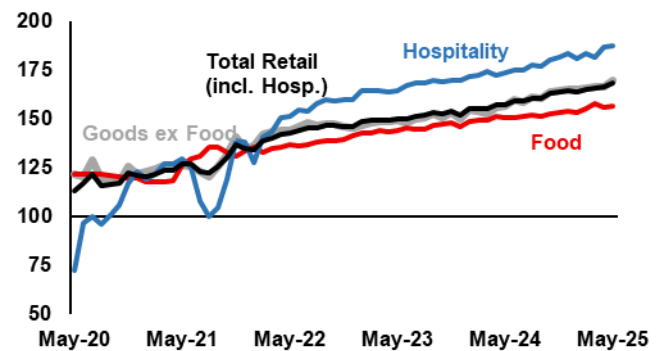


Chart 10: Total Retail Spending Growth (%)

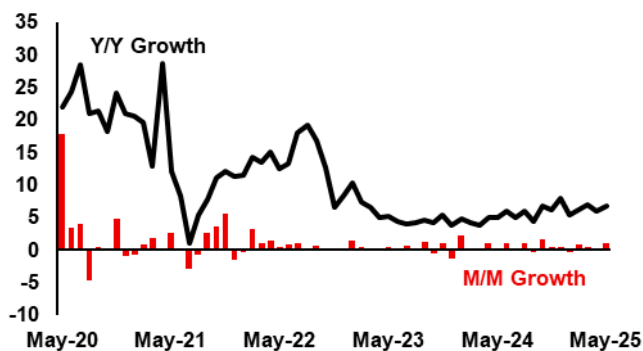


Chart 11: Retail spending by category

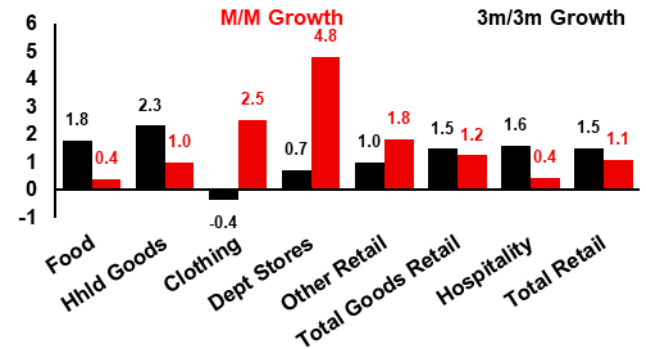


Chart 12: Contribution to Monthly Growth (%)

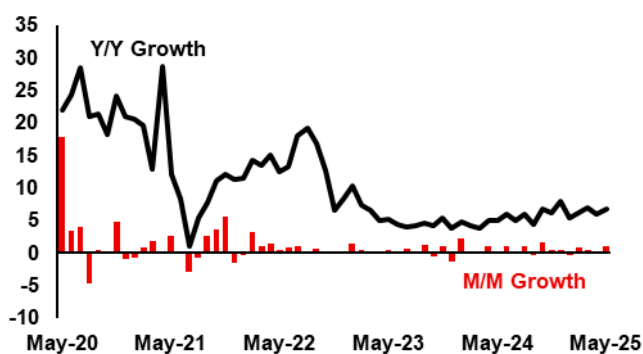
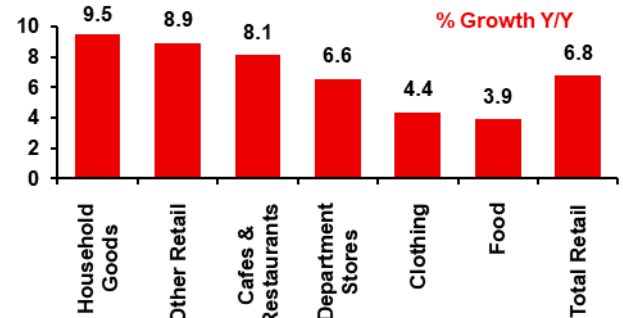


Chart 13: Y/Y Growth, Retail Subcategories



Note: Data are seasonally adjusted and subject to revision.

Monthly Spending – Detail for Non-Retail Subcategories

- Spending on fuel continued to fall, declining a further 0.8% in May. The fall in fuel spending was offset by an increase of 0.8% in spending on vehicles.
- Essential services spending increased 1.4%, driven by increases in all subcategories. The strongest growth was recorded in education (1.8%), insurance (1.6%) and health & care (1.6%).
- Other spending grew 1.7% in May, with a strong rebound in spending on transport & postal (5.5%). Spending increased in all other sub-categories except for other services (-0.2% m/m).

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25				Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25		
	m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y		m/m	m/m	m/m	3m/3m	y/y
Vehicles	-0.7	1.3	0.8	0.2	3.6	Arts, Rec. & Travel	0.1	3.4	1.4	1.6	12.4
Fuel	-1.0	-0.7	-0.8	-2.5	-8.6	Construction	-2.4	3.0	1.5	0.4	6.1
Vehicles & Fuel Total	-0.9	0.0	-0.2	-1.6	-4.7	Professional Services	1.5	0.7	1.2	5.2	10.6
Education	4.6	-2.9	1.8	4.0	10.9	Transport & Postal	1.4	-4.3	5.5	1.0	9.9
Utilities	8.2	-8.1	0.4	3.6	-3.7	Other Services	-0.4	1.6	-0.2	1.1	8.3
Insurance	0.4	1.8	1.6	4.3	16.9	Other Spending Total	0.4	0.9	1.7	1.9	10.3
Health & Care	1.2	-0.6	1.6	1.9	5.8						
Media & Comms	2.6	2.2	1.4	4.3	14.7						
Essential Svcs Total	2.4	-0.6	1.4	3.6	10.0						

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

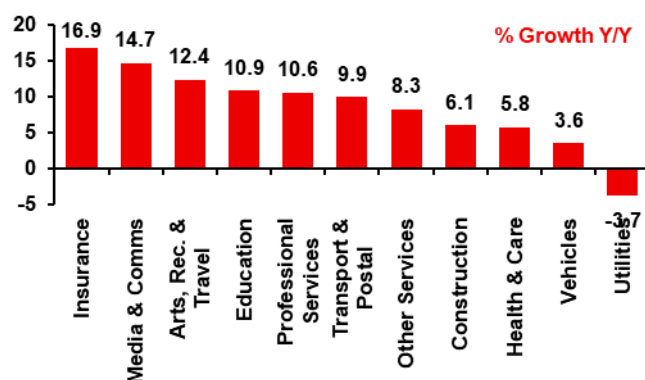


Chart 15: Vehicles & Fuel Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

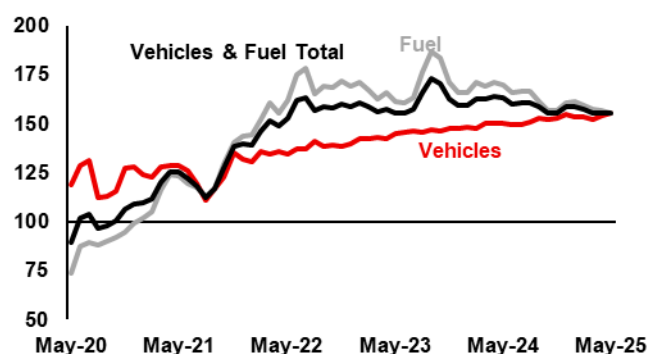


Chart 16: Essential Services Index (Jan 2020 = 100)

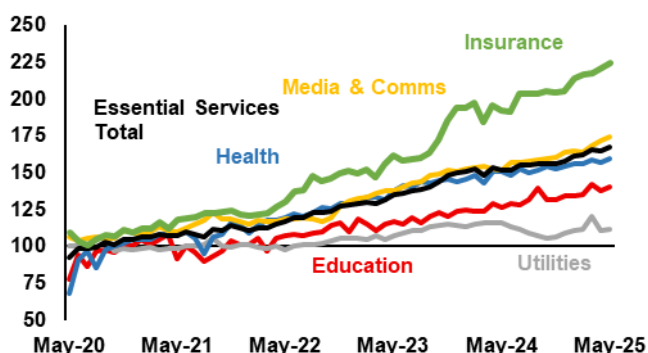
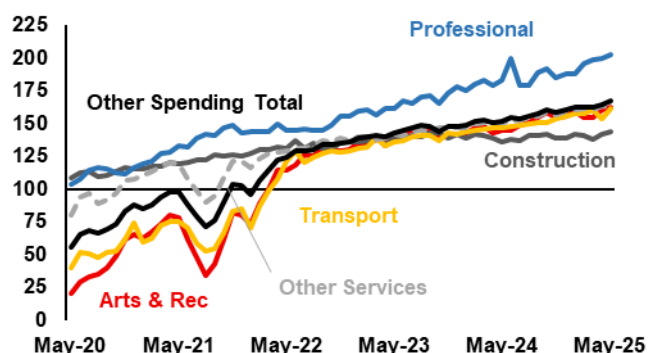


Chart 17: Other Spending Index (Jan 2020 = 100)



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.

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.

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