

8 December 2022

## Australia's trade account, October: Surplus remains elevated, holding above \$12bn. Surplus, \$12.2bn, previous \$12.4bn. Exports -0.9%. Imports -0.7%.

Australia's October trade balance printed a \$12.2bn surplus, meeting expectations, Westpac f/c \$12.1bn and market median \$12.0bn.

That is little changed from the \$12.4bn outcome for September and represents yet another sizeable surprise.

Both exports and imports were little changed in the month, edging a little lower – that was despite the weaker Australian dollar, which would act to boost prices.

Imports declined by 0.7%, -\$0.3bn. The main mover, a \$0.5bn decline in the import bill off a high level, with global energy prices down from their highs.

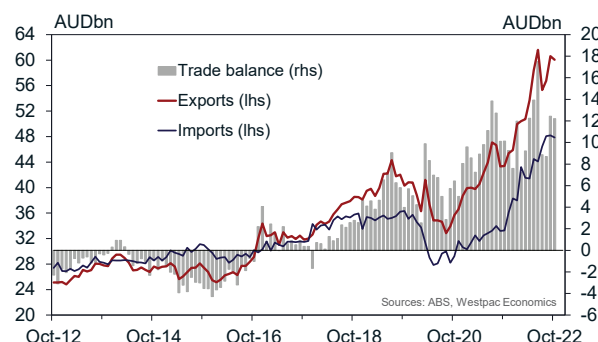
Export earnings declined by 0.9%, -\$0.6bn. The volatile gold sector was the main mover, down by 20.5%, a fall of \$0.5bn.

Fuel exports, dominated by LNG, hit a new record high, up \$0.3bn to \$11.2bn. Rural goods also hit a record high, up \$0.1bn to \$7.2bn, led by cereals which have spiked to be at a fresh high of \$2.4bn on improved seasonal conditions.

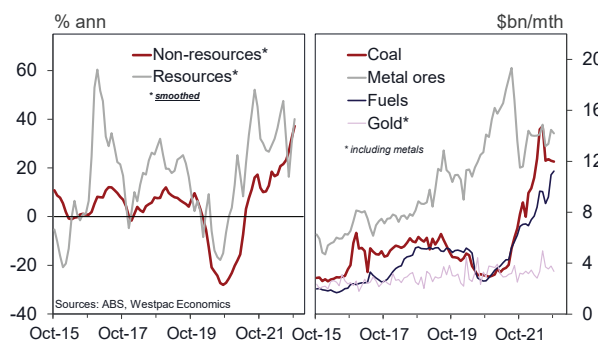
Service exports were little changed in the month, increasing by 0.4%. This included a decline in total tourism related service exports, down by 2.5%, the first monthly fall since the low of last October. This represents a temporary dip. The rebound on the national border reopening is set to continue into 2023.

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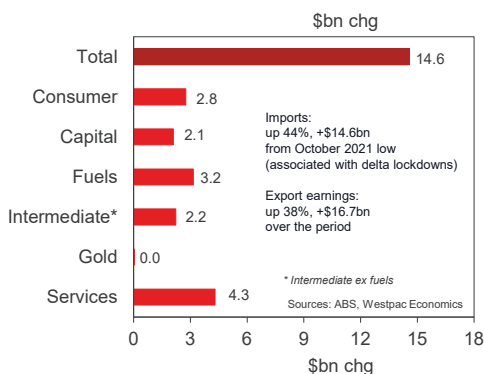
### Trade surplus: holds at \$12.2bn in October



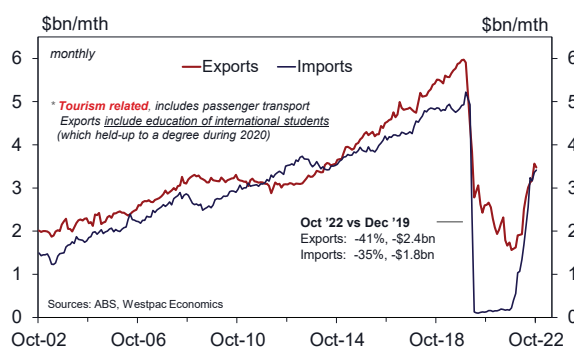
### Export earnings



### Imports: October 2021 to October 2022



### International tourism sharp rebound on reopening



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