1 May 2025

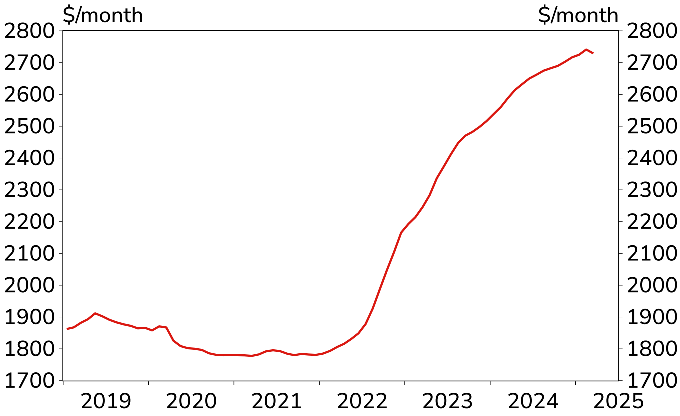
CONSUMER PANEL UPDATE Q1 2025

Powered by DataX

Mortgage repayments dropped in Q1 for the first time in 3+ years.

- Households breathed a sigh of relief when interest rates were cut in February. Early insights from our Westpac–DataX Consumer Panel suggests the move is already easing pressure, albeit very slightly, saving the average mortgage holder around $12 a month.
- Most cohorts continue to build financial resilience by increasing savings, though for lower-income groups this also includes reducing spend on food and groceries. In contrast, the highest income group are still drawing down on savings to support discretionary spend.
- The saving rate slowed into the new year. While this supports a more positive consumption outlook, buffers remain below previous highs and with global uncertainty elevated and widespread, a shift back to more aggressive saving attitudes cannot be ruled out.

Average minimum mortgage repayment



Source: Westpac DataX, Westpac Economics

Westpac-DataX Consumer Panel

The Westpac-DataX Consumer Panel is a large dataset that gives a timely and detailed picture of Australian consumer finances and behaviour. Developed by DataX, Westpac's data analytics team, the dataset links transaction activity with balance sheet information to give a complete view of income, spending, saving and borrowing flows.

All data is de-identified and aggregated to ensure privacy. The resulting sample of over 1 million customers gives an accurate representation of trends across the wider Australian consumer and is perfectly suited to quickly tracing the impact and responses to events like the stage 3 tax cuts.

Spending growth up slightly; savings rate eases

Neha Sharma
Economist

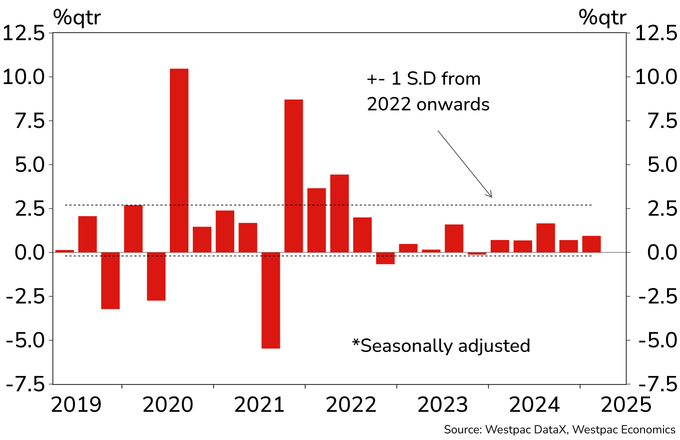
This update from the Westpac–DataX Consumer Panel unpacks spending, debt, and savings trends across Westpac's broad customer base. Aggregates can mask important shifts in behaviour across different cohorts. In a climate of uneven economic pressures, disaggregated data is key to understanding who's spending, who's saving and who's feeling the strain.

Who's spending: recently, low-income cohorts

Average consumer spending (nominal) has grown steadily. Consumers on average spent $9479 in the March quarter – up 0.9% from the December quarter, and 4.0% from a year ago. However, with prices growing 0.9%qtr in the March quarter, average real, inflation-adjusted spend is closer to flat. Westpac expects household consumption to grow by 0.3%qtr in the March quarter national accounts (due June 4).

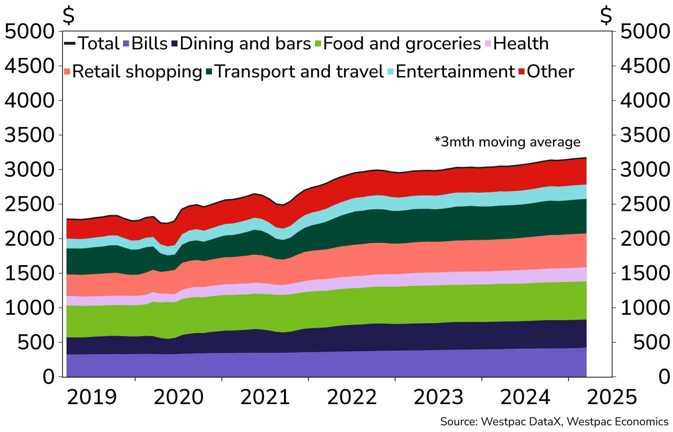
Spending was balanced between discretionary-leaning and non-discretionary-leaning segments. Food & groceries remains the top spending category since 2019, accounting for a little under 20% of total spend, followed by transport & travel and retail shopping. Together, the three categories make up nearly half of all consumer spending. More broadly, category shares have remained largely stable post-pandemic.

Average quarterly spend per person



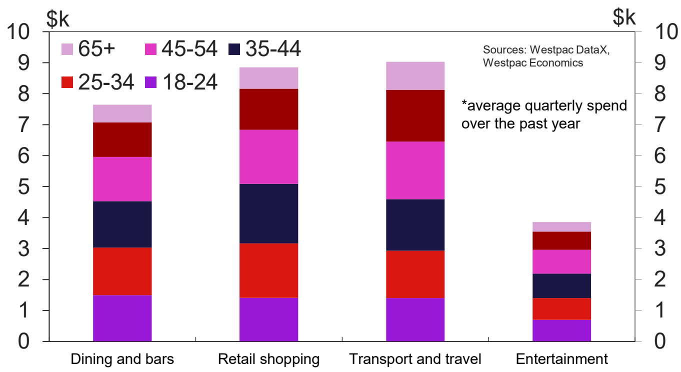
Spending across different segments mainly reflects income dynamics. High-income groups, such as those aged 45–54, males, WA residents and mortgage holders, spend more, while lower-income groups, like those aged 65+, spend less. However, when looking at spending growth over the last quarter, it has been higher among the 18–24 and 65+ cohorts, lower-income groups and females.

Average spend by category



Interestingly, all cohorts aged 18–54 have roughly spent the same amount on discretionary-leaning categories such as dining & bars, retail shopping, and entertainment, with there being a discernible drop-off at the 55+ mark. This is also despite younger cohorts spending less overall. More generally, the share of spending allocated to discretionary-leaning categories declines with age: the 18–24 group allocates a little over two-thirds of their spending, compared to two-fifths for those aged 65+.

Spending on discretionary categories by age



Food & groceries was the top spend category across most segments. In Queensland, food spending rose 0.9% in March, likely reflecting the impact of Cyclone Alfred. However, the increase was more muted than seen in the **Westpac Card Tracker** (see here), with weekly fluctuations likely smoothing out the overall effect.

In our last update, we estimated the average MPC from tax cuts at 0.25. Incorporating the Q1 data, the average MPC across our 10 specifications now sits just below 0.20 – suggesting households are spending roughly 20c for every $1 income boost from tax cuts. Even with the rate cut in play the lower MPC points to general reluctance to spend.

Spotlight: Debt and mortgage repayments

Since 2021, consumer housing debt has risen significantly, with average mortgage balances up 9.5% to just over $360k by March 2025. State trends show mortgage balances ranging from $300k in WA to $416k in NSW, with consumers in the larger eastern states holding larger mortgages, commensurate with generally higher housing prices and incomes.

Over the past year, average mortgage balances nationally rose 3.7%, broadly in line with the 3.5% increase in national housing prices. State-level trends reveal wider divergences: in Qld, SA and WA, housing prices rose 8.9–12.4%yr, while mortgage balances grew more modestly at 4.4–5.1%yr. The 25–34 age cohort – the most common age cohort for first home purchases – saw average mortgage balances rise 5.2%yr.

Average mortgage repayments have surged since 2022. Over the two years to January 2024, the average minimum repayment increased by 42.2%, or about $754, while average incomes grew just 8.5% (or $641). Since then, repayment growth has slowed, peaking at $2,741 in February 2025 at 31.3% of income, with this share being higher for lower-income groups.

On 19 February 2025, the RBA began easing monetary policy with a 25bp rate cut. Early signs from our Panel show this starting to filter through: in March 2025, average mortgage repayments fell 0.5%mth (around $12), equivalent to around 0.1% of income. This marked the first decline in minimum repayments since December 2021. A more complete picture will be provided in April's data.

The mid-2019 rate cuts prompted a similar change in repayments (~0.4–0.5%mth decline). However, the spend response differed: following the first rate cut in June 2019, spending rose 0.7%mth, comparable to the 0.6%mth lift seen after this year's cut. But, the second cut in July 2019 triggered a stronger 2.1%mth rise. Westpac expects three additional rate cuts in 2025, which could see a stronger boost in spending, just as we saw in 2019.

Who's saving: All but one

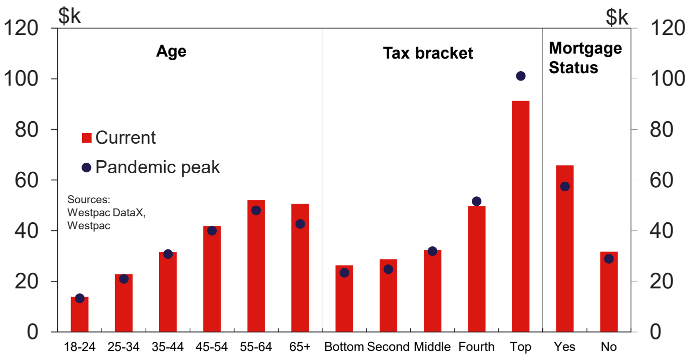
Our Panel shows that average savings balances have continued to grow strongly post-pandemic, surpassing their pandemic peak by 9.2%. As of March 2025, the average Consumer Panel member holds around $38.1k in savings. However, momentum has slowed. Net savings (total inflow less outflow from savings and offset accounts) averaged just 1.1% of income in Q1 2025, down from 5.1% in Q4 2024 and down from an average of 2.9% across 2024.

Table 1: Spending patterns

		Quarterly spend (Q1 2025, $k)	%qtr	Top spend category*
total		9.47	0.9	Food and groceries
age group:	18–24	7.51	1.1	Dining and bars
	25–34	9.74	0.8	Retail shopping
	35–44	11.50	0.7	Food and groceries
	45–54	11.90	0.5	Food and groceries
	55–64	10.06	1.0	Food and groceries
	65+	6.43	1.3	Food and groceries
gender:	male	9.87	0.6	Transport and travel
	female	9.12	1.0	Food and groceries
state:	NSW	9.33	1.1	Food and groceries
	VIC	9.49	1.0	Food and groceries
	QLD	9.58	0.0	Food and groceries
	SA	8.91	0.7	Food and groceries
	WA	10.20	1.0	Food and groceries
	TAS	8.85	0.9	Food and groceries
income band:	bottom	6.08	1.2	Food and groceries
	second	6.51	1.2	Food and groceries
	middle	9.77	0.7	Food and groceries
	fourth	12.8	0.9	Transport and travel
	top	16.68	1.1	Transport and travel
mortgage:	yes	12.56	0.8	Transport and travel
	no	8.75	0.8	Food and groceries

*3 month spend total, average over past year
Source: Westpac DataX, Westpac Economics

Average savings balance



Across our different cohorts, savings balances show a similar pattern: a slight dip between 2022 and 2023, followed by solid growth. The 65+ cohort has led the recovery with savings up 24.7% from a late-2022 trough.

People in the top two tax brackets buck this trend. Those in the second-highest bracket have average savings 3.6% below the pandemic peak, though balances have been steadily rebuilding. In contrast, those in the highest bracket continue to draw down, with average savings 9.7% below the pandemic peak and trending lower. That said, this group has an average balance of $91.3k as of March 2025. Mortgage holders also maintain a healthy savings pool, averaging around $65k – up 14.7% since mid-2022.

Who's feeling the strain: the young & low-income

While savings have grown post-pandemic, this period has also coincided with a surge in inflation and accompanying interest rate rises. So, a natural question is 'how has household financial resilience evolved over this period?'. Financial resilience is a key determinant of consumer behaviour, influencing not just how much consumers spend, but their willingness to spend in the face of uncertainty.

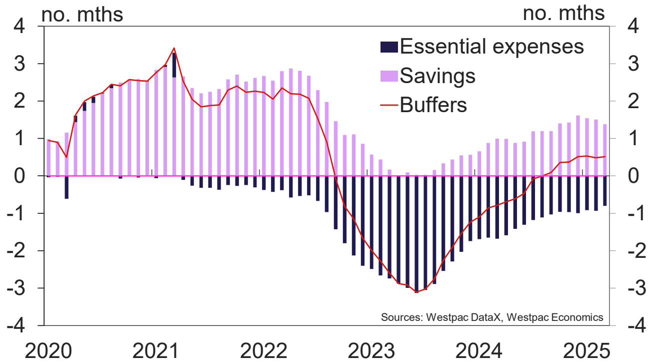
The analysis in this section is limited to mortgage holders only. There are some challenges with replicating this analysis for other households, including identifying renting households. We will leave this for a later update.

Savings buffers for mortgagors peaked in 2022. At that time, the average borrower could cover essential expenses (food, bills and mortgage repayments) for around 19 months. By March 2025, this had declined to 16 months. For mortgage repayments alone, buffers have declined from 31 to 24 months. Despite this decline, with around 1.5 years of essential expenses covered, mortgagors remain in a relatively strong position.

Higher-income mortgagors tend to have larger buffers, with those in the top tax bracket holding around 18 months of buffer reserve – 29.7% more than the next highest group. At the lower end, households in the lowest tax bracket have buffers of around 10 months, down slightly from a peak of 12 months. While the decline has largely stabilised across income groups, there has been little recovery, with all cohorts adding less than a month to their buffers over the past year. Note that some of these shifts could also be due to changes in the composition of the mortgage cohort.

In aggregate, the decline in buffers has primarily been due to rising essential expenses – particularly mortgage costs – only partly offset by increased savings. A closer look across income groups reveals two key insights: lower-income households have trimmed spending on food and groceries, helping preserve buffers, while the highest income cohort appears to be drawing down on savings to fund discretionary spending, eroding their buffers.

Contribution to annual change in buffers



By age group, cohorts aged 25+ have buffers of around 1–1.5 years. In contrast, the youngest cohort (18–24) holds just 7 months, leaving them more vulnerable to an income shock (e.g. job loss, sickness etc.). This is expected, given their shorter savings history and higher allocation of income to essential expenses. That said, this cohort has seen a 38.9% increase in buffers over the past year, the strongest of the lot.

Updating our previous state-based analysis (see here) to include essential expenses in the mix, we land on largely the same conclusion. Savings buffers are down between 9.3–21.2% from their respective peaks, with Victorian mortgage holders facing the largest decline. Mortgage holders in almost all states have over a 12-month buffer, with NSW leading the way at 19 months. Tasmania falls short of this with buffers of around 8 months on average.

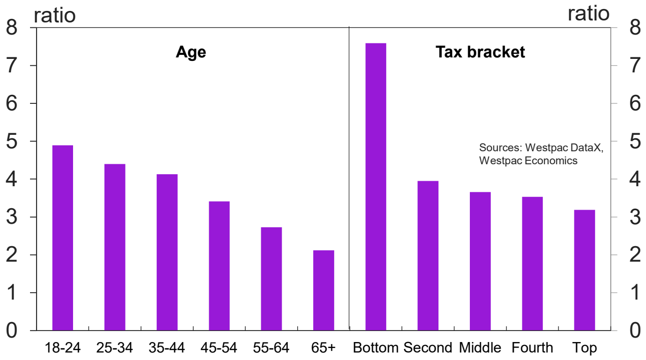
Table 2: Savings buffers

		Current (mths)	Peak (mths)	Change from peak (%)	Growth in the last year (%)
total		16.2	19.1	-15.4	3.3
age group:	18–24	7.2	8.9	-19.5	38.9
	25–34	11.8	13.8	-14.5	5.3
	35–44	14.8	18.3	-19.3	2.1
	45–54	15.6	18.7	-16.4	2.3
	55–64	17.6	20.3	-13.4	4.5
	65+	18.0	18.2	-1.0	4.3
state:	NSW	19.1	22.6	-15.7	2.1
	VIC	16.2	22.5	-21.2	2.5
	QLD	13.4	15.4	-13.0	2.7
	SA	13.7	15.2	-10.1	8.9
	WA	13.6	15.0	-9.3	6.0
	TAS	7.9	9.5	-16.7	4.2
income band:	bottom	10.5	11.8	-11.5	8.2
	second	13.0	13.6	-4.7	6.7
	middle	13.1	15.2	-13.7	5.9
	fourth	14.1	17.1	-17.8	2.3
	top	18.2	24.1	-24.4	-0.3

Source: Westpac DataX, Westpac Economics

Household debt-to-income ratios are generally lower among older and higher-income groups, and remain below 5 across most segments. The one exception are mortgagors in the lowest income group, where the average debt-to-income ratio is around 7.6.

Debt to income ratio by age and income



Overall, while household financial resilience has weakened since 2022, most households remain well-positioned to meet their essential expenses, including mortgage repayments. Looking ahead, financial resilience should strengthen as real household disposable incomes recover and interest rates decline further. While some deterioration in the labour market is anticipated, mortgage holders have historically weathered periods of rising unemployment relatively well.

About the Westpac–DataX Consumer Panel

Developed by DataX, Westpac's data analytics service for institutional and business banking customers, the dataset links transaction activity with balance sheet information to give a complete view of income, spending, saving and borrowing flows.

The data is de-identified and aggregated to ensure the privacy of our customers.

To gain the most accurate picture of consumer activity, the panel is restricted to only include connection observations where we have the most visibility of income, spending, saving and borrowing activity.

The resulting sample of over 1 million customers provides an accurate representation of trends across the wider Australian consumer.

Monthly observations are available back to July 2019 with timely updates provided a few weeks after the end of each month.

As such, it is perfectly suited to quickly tracing the impact and responses to events like the stage 3 tax cuts.

Corporate Directory

Westpac Economics / Australia

Sydney
Level 19, 275 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

E: economics@westpac.com.au

Luci Ellis
Chief Economist Westpac Group
E: luci.ellis@westpac.com.au

Matthew Hassan
Head of Australian Macro-Forecasting
E: mhassan@westpac.com.au

Elliot Clarke
Head of International Economics
E: eclarke@westpac.com.au

Justin Smirk
Senior Economist
E: jsmirk@westpac.com.au

Pat Bustamante
Senior Economist
E: pat.bustamante@westpac.com.au

Mantas Vanagas
Senior Economist
E: mantas.vanagas@westpac.com.au

Illiana Jain
Economist
E: illiana.jain@westpac.com.au

Neha Sharma
Economist
E: neha.sharma1@westpac.com.au

Jameson Coombs
Economist
E: jameson.coombs@westpac.com.au

Ryan Wells
Economist
E: ryan.wells@westpac.com.au

Westpac Economics / New Zealand

Auckland
Takutai on the Square
Level 8, 16 Takutai Square
Auckland, New Zealand

E: economics@westpac.co.nz

Kelly Eckhold
Chief Economist NZ
E: kelly.eckhold@westpac.co.nz

Michael Gordon
Senior Economist
E: michael.gordon@westpac.co.nz

Darren Gibbs
Senior Economist
E: darren.gibbs@westpac.co.nz

Satish Ranchhod
Senior Economist
E: satish.ranchhod@westpac.co.nz

Paul Clark
Industry Economist
E: paul.clarke@westpac.co.nz

Westpac Economics / Fiji

Suva
1 Thomson Street
Suva, Fiji

Shamal Chand
Senior Economist
E: shamal.chand@westpac.com.au

IQ
westpaciq.com.au

Things you should know

We respect your privacy: You can view our privacy statement at Westpac.com.au. Each time someone visits our site, data is captured so that we can accurately evaluate the quality of our content and make improvements for you. We may at times use technology to capture data about you to help us to better understand you and your needs, including potentially for the purposes of assessing your individual reading habits and interests to allow us to provide suggestions regarding other reading material which may be suitable for you.

Disclaimer

This information has been prepared by Westpac and is intended for information purposes only. It is not intended to reflect any recommendation or financial advice and investment decisions should not be based on it. This information does not constitute an offer, a solicitation of an offer, or an inducement to subscribe for, purchase or sell any financial instrument or to enter into a legally binding contract. To the extent that this information contains any general advice, it has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the advice. Certain types of transactions, including those involving futures, options and high yield securities give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. We recommend that you seek your own independent legal or financial advice before proceeding with any investment decision.

This information may contain material provided by third parties. While such material is published with the necessary permission none of Westpac or its related entities accepts any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any such material. Although we have made every effort to ensure this information is free from error, none of Westpac or its related entities warrants the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of this information, or otherwise endorses it in any way. Except where contrary to law, Westpac Group intend by this notice to exclude liability for this information. This information is subject to change without notice and none of Westpac or its related entities is under any obligation to update this information or correct any inaccuracy which may become apparent at a later date. This information may contain or incorporate by reference forward-looking statements. The words “believe”, “anticipate”, “expect”, “intend”, “plan”, “predict”, “continue”, “assume”, “positioned”, “may”, “will”, “should”, “shall”, “risk” and other similar expressions that are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements include all matters that are not historical facts. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, nor are forecasts of future performance. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which any forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The ultimate outcomes may differ substantially from any forecasts.

Conflicts of Interest: In the normal course of offering banking products and services to its clients, the Westpac Group may act in several capacities (including issuer, market maker, underwriter, distributor, swap counterparty and calculation agent) simultaneously with respect to a financial instrument, giving rise to potential conflicts of interest which may impact the performance of a financial instrument. The Westpac Group may at any time transact or hold a position (including hedging and trading positions) for its own account or the account of a client in any financial instrument which may impact the performance of that financial instrument.

Author(s) disclaimer and declaration: The author(s) confirms that (a) no part of his/her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to any views or (if applicable) recommendations expressed in this material; (b) this material accurately reflects his/her personal views about the financial products, companies or issuers (if applicable) and is based on sources reasonably believed to be reliable and accurate; (c) to the best of the author’s knowledge, they are not in receipt of inside information and this material does not contain inside information; and (d) no other part of the Westpac Group has made any attempt to influence this material.

Further important information regarding sustainability-related content: This material may contain statements relating to environmental, social and governance (ESG) topics. These are subject to known and unknown risks, and there are significant uncertainties, limitations, risks and assumptions in the metrics, modelling, data, scenarios, reporting and analysis on which the statements rely. In particular, these areas are rapidly evolving and maturing, and there are variations in approaches and common standards and practice, as well as uncertainty around future related policy and legislation. Some material may include information derived from publicly available sources that have not been independently verified. No representation or warranty is made as to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information. There is a risk that the analysis, estimates, judgements, assumptions, views, models, scenarios or projections used may turn out to be incorrect. These risks may cause actual outcomes to differ materially from those expressed or implied. The ESG-related statements in this material do not constitute advice, nor are they guarantees or predictions of future performance, and Westpac gives no representation, warranty or assurance (including as to the quality, accuracy or completeness of the statements). You should seek your own independent advice.

Additional country disclosures:

Australia: Westpac holds an Australian Financial Services Licence (No. 233714). You can access Westpac’s Financial Services Guide here or request a copy from your Westpac point of contact. To the extent that this information contains any general advice, it has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the advice.

Note: Luci Ellis, Westpac Chief Economist is a member of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) which is a key advisory body to the Minister and the Australian Bureau of Statistics on statistical services. Luci does not have access to sensitive data/reports in her capacity as a member of ASAC.

New Zealand: In New Zealand, Westpac Institutional Bank refers to the brand under which products and services are provided by either Westpac (NZ division) or Westpac New Zealand Limited (company number 1763882), the New Zealand incorporated subsidiary of Westpac ("WNZL"). Any product or service made available by WNZL does not represent an offer from Westpac or any of its subsidiaries (other than WNZL). Neither Westpac nor its other subsidiaries guarantee or otherwise support the performance of WNZL in respect of any such product. WNZL is not an authorised deposit-taking institution for the purposes of Australian prudential standards. The current disclosure statements for the New Zealand branch of Westpac and WNZL can be obtained at the internet address www.westpac.co.nz.

Disclaimer continues overleaf ▶

DISCLAIMER

Singapore: This material has been prepared and issued for distribution in Singapore to institutional investors, accredited investors and expert investors (as defined in the applicable Singapore laws and regulations) only. Recipients of this material in Singapore should contact Westpac Singapore Branch in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this material. Westpac Singapore Branch holds a wholesale banking licence and is subject to supervision by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

U.S: Westpac operates in the United States of America as a federally licensed branch, regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Westpac is also registered with the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") as a Swap Dealer, but is neither registered as, or affiliated with, a Futures Commission Merchant registered with the US CFTC. The services and products referenced above are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"). Westpac Capital Markets, LLC ('WCM'), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Westpac, is a broker-dealer registered under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ('the Exchange Act') and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ('FINRA'). In accordance with APRA's Prudential Standard 222 'Association with Related Entities', Westpac does not stand behind WCM other than as provided for in certain legal agreements between Westpac and WCM and obligations of WCM do not represent liabilities of Westpac.

This communication is provided for distribution to U.S. institutional investors in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 under the Exchange Act and is not subject to all of the independence and disclosure standards applicable to debt research reports prepared for retail investors in the United States. WCM is the U.S. distributor of this communication and accepts responsibility for the contents of this communication. Transactions by U.S. customers of any securities referenced herein should be effected through WCM. All disclaimers set out with respect to Westpac apply equally to WCM. If you would like to speak to someone regarding any security mentioned herein, please contact WCM on +1 212 389 1269. Investing in any non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments mentioned in this communication may present certain risks. The securities of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with, or be subject to the regulations of, the SEC in the United States. Information on such non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments may be limited. Non-U.S. companies may not be subject to audit and reporting standards and regulatory requirements comparable to those in effect in the United States. The value of any investment or income from any securities or related derivative instruments denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars is subject to exchange rate fluctuations that may have a positive or adverse effect on the value of or income from such securities or related derivative instruments.

The author of this communication is employed by Westpac and is not registered or qualified as a research analyst, representative, or associated person of WCM or any other U.S. broker-dealer under the rules of FINRA, any other U.S. self-regulatory organisation, or the laws, rules or regulations of any State. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the views expressed herein are solely those of the author and may differ from the information, views or analysis expressed by Westpac and/or its affiliates.

UK and EU: The London branch of Westpac is authorised in the United Kingdom by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and limited regulation by the PRA (Financial Services Register number: 124586). The London branch of Westpac is registered at Companies House as a branch established in the United Kingdom (Branch No. BR000106). Details about the extent of the regulation of Westpac's London branch by the PRA are available from us on request.

Westpac Europe GmbH ("WEG") is authorised in Germany by the Federal Financial Supervision Authority ('BaFin') and subject to its regulation. WEG's supervisory authorities are BaFin and the German Federal Bank ('Deutsche Bundesbank'). WEG is registered with the commercial register ('Handelsregister') of the local court of Frankfurt am Main under registration number HRB 118483. In accordance with APRA's Prudential Standard 222 'Association with Related Entities', Westpac does not stand behind WEG other than as provided for in certain legal agreements (a risk transfer, sub-participation and collateral agreement) between Westpac and WEG and obligations of WEG do not represent liabilities of Westpac.

This communication is not intended for distribution to, or use by any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation. This communication is not being made to or distributed to, and must not be passed on to, the general public in the United Kingdom. Rather, this communication is being made only to and is directed at (a) those persons falling within the definition of Investment Professionals (set out in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the "Order")); (b) those persons falling within the definition of high net worth companies, unincorporated associations etc. (set out in Article 49(2)of the Order; (c) other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated in accordance with the Order or (d) any persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be made (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this communication or any of its contents. In the same way, the information contained in this communication is intended for "eligible counterparties" and "professional clients" as defined by the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority and is not intended for "retail clients". Westpac expressly prohibits you from passing on the information in this communication to any third party.

This communication contains general commentary, research, and market colour. The communication does not constitute investment advice. The material may contain an 'investment recommendation' and/or 'information recommending or suggesting an investment', both as defined in Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 (including as applicable in the United Kingdom) ("MAR"). In accordance with the relevant provisions of MAR, reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the material has been objectively presented and that interests or conflicts of interest of the sender concerning the financial instruments to which that information relates have been disclosed.

Investment recommendations must be read alongside the specific disclosure which accompanies them and the general disclosure which can be found here. Such disclosure fulfils certain additional information requirements of MAR and associated delegated legislation and by accepting this communication you acknowledge that you are aware of the existence of such additional disclosure and its contents.

To the extent this communication comprises an investment recommendation it is classified as non-independent research. It has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and therefore constitutes a marketing communication. Further, this communication is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research.