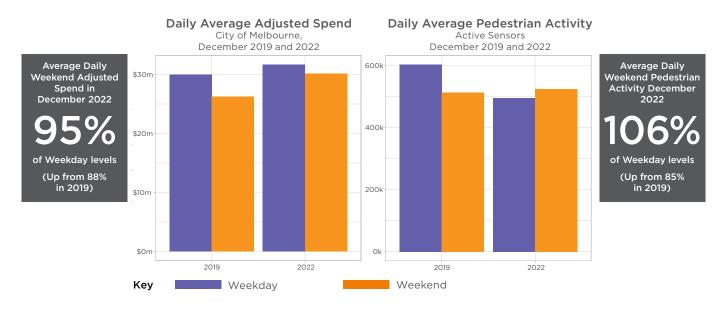
# **MELBOURNE ECONOMY SNAPSHOT**

December 2022

### **WEEKENDS ARE NOW BUSIER THAN WEEKDAYS**

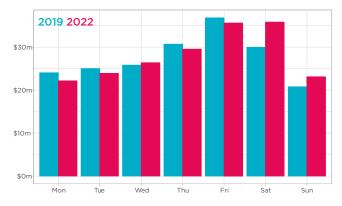
Before the pandemic, weekdays were busier than weekends, but there are now more people in the city on weekends than before the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021. Overall spending is now higher on weekends and weekdays, even after adjusting for inflation, with weekend daily average spend now closer to weekday spend.



## FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ARE THE BUSIEST DAYS OF THE WEEK

Pedestrian activity during the work week is 23% to 32% lower than before the pandemic. Activity in October to December saw a gradual increase in pedestrian activity across the week, with a peak on Saturday, a deviation from pre-pandemic trends when the highest activity was on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Overall spend has rebounded more strongly than pedestrian activity, even after adjusting for inflation, with weekday spend similar to pre-pandemic levels, suggesting that visitors are now spending more per visit than before.

#### Daily Average Adjusted Spend City of Melbourne October to December, 2019 and 2022







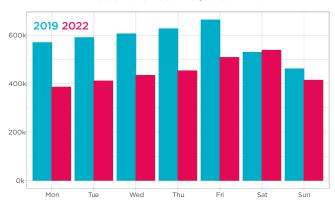
Friday

97%
of 2019 levels

Saturday 120% of 2019 levels

### Daily Average Pedestrian Activity

Active Sensors October to December, 2019 and 2022



#### Pedestrian Activity October to December



77% of 2019 levels Saturday
102%
of 2019 levels

Pedestrian activity data current as of 01/01/2023. Source: City of Melbourne Pedestrian Counting System. Spend data current as of 18/01/2023. Data source: Spendmapp by Geografia (2023). All dollar figures have been adjusted for inflation to June 2019 prices.



# MELBOURNE ECONOMY SNAPSHOT

December 2022

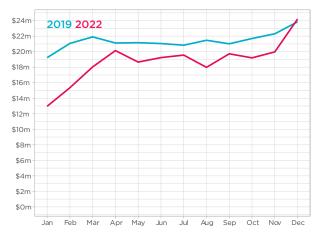
## **ACTIVITY DURING THE WORK WEEK IS GRADUALLY RECOVERING**

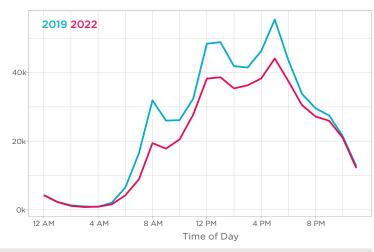
COVID-19 lockdowns created a significant drop in office occupancy rates and daytime pedestrian activity in 2020 and 2021, as people switched to working from home. Hybrid working is still dominant, with the morning peak hour activity at around 40% lower than pre-pandemic levels, and office occupancy at 57% in November. Despite less office workers coming into the city, visitor activity has returned to the city, with spending on weekdays during the typical workday (8am to 6pm) in December at 2019 levels, even after adjusting for inflation, and while weekday pedestrian activity remains below 2019, activity has shifted to the afternoon peaks instead of the morning rush hour.



### Daily Average Weekday Hourly **Pedestrian Activity**







November Office Occupancy of 2019 levels

December Weekday Adjusted Spend Work Hours

**December Weekday Pedestrian Activity** 

Daytime Hours

**Morning Peak** 

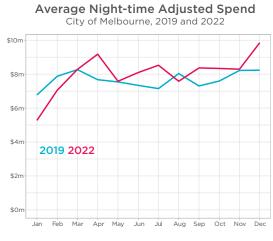
Lunchtime Peak

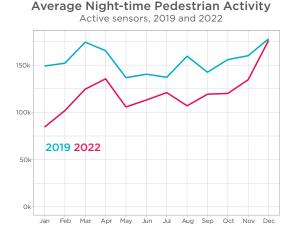
Afternoon Peak of 2019 levels

## NIGHT-TIME SPENDING IS UP ACROSS THE CITY

Night-time visitation to the city has rebounded more strongly than daytime visitation, with activity in December at pre-pandemic levels. Night-time spending has been at or above 2019 levels since April (even after adjusting for inflation), so it seems that night-time patrons are prepared to spend more than they were before the pandemic. Supporting night-time economy are our late night food and drink businesses, with nearly half trading from 9pm to 12am and a quarter trading between 12am and 3am.







edestrian activity data current as of 01/01/2023. Source: City of Melbourne Pedestrian Counting System. Spend data current as of 18/01/2023. Data source: Spendmapp by Geografia (2023). All dollar figures have been adjusted for inflation to June 2019 prices. Night-time data for 31 December 2022 not yet available.

Office occupancy data source: Property Council of Australia

DISCLAIMER: We've taken every care to ensure this information is correct at the time of publication. The City of Melbourne assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors, omissions or changes to information over time. The City of Melbourne does not accept any liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect loss, damage or injury suffered as a result of reliance on this information.

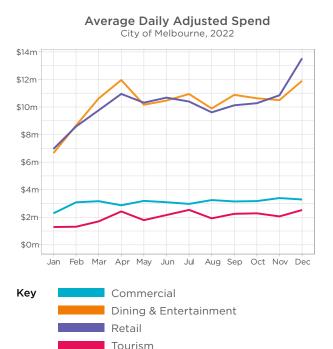


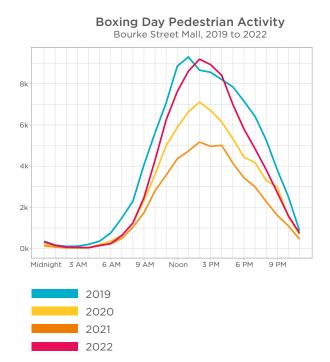
# **MELBOURNE ECONOMY SNAPSHOT**

December 2022

## SPEND IN DECEMBER WAS OVER \$1 BILLION, A RECORD HIGH

Spending soared in December, with \$1.1 billion spent across the city (unadjusted). The surge in spending was driven by retail, followed by a boost to spending on entertainment, with stronger month-on-month growth than 2019. In 2022, Boxing Day pedestrian activity was 52% higher than the December average, and 15% lower than Boxing Day in 2019.

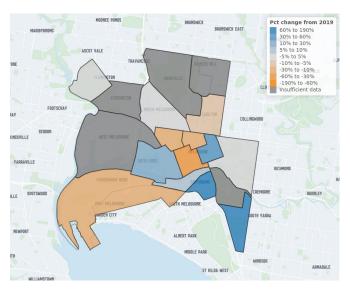




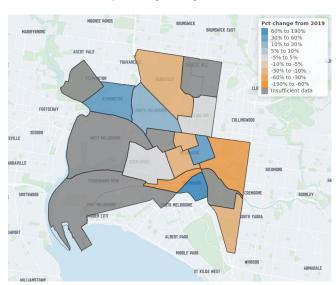
## SPENDING IS RECOVERING AT DIFFERENT RATES ACROSS THE CITY

The CBD-East, which is generally east of Elizabeth Street and south of Lonsdale Street, led spending in December 2022, which was significantly higher than 2019, with strong growth in both retail, and dining and entertainment. Retail has also rebounded in Docklands, Southbank, and South Yarra, while dining and entertainment spend is also above 2019 levels in Southbank – East (containing the Melbourne Arts Precinct), Kensington, and North Melbourne.

## Retail monthly adjusted spend December 2022 percentage change from December 2019



## Dining and Entertainment monthly adjusted spend December 2022 percentage change from December 2019



Pedestrian activity data current as of 01/01/2023. Source: City of Melbourne Pedestrian Counting System. Spend data current as of 18/01/2023. Data source: Spendmapp by Geografia (2023). All dollar figures have been adjusted for inflation to June 2019 prices.

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