

# Australia's spending jumps 25% in August

5 September 2022

New data shows daily spending for the average Australian jumped 25% in August, to \$83.27 per day. The figure is drawn from the Beforepay Cost of Living Index, which summarises the spending of more than 250,000 Australians across several household expense categories. These categories include utilities, groceries, food and drink, shopping, petrol and fitness and health.

According to the Beforepay Cost of Living Index for August, daily spending increased from \$66.46 in July 2022. The biggest increases were in utilities, durables, fitness and health, and entertainment, which each contributed an increase of more than 30% compared to July 2022. Every category was up over the month, led by fitness and health (51.57% increase). Shopping had the smallest percentage increase at 12.4%.

Over the last year, daily spending for the average Australian has increased 42.3%, from \$58.50 in August 2021.

Additional insights include:

- Utilities are up 37.56% month-to-month and have increased 57.87% compared to last August, a period when we were all spending more time at home due to COVID lockdowns.
- Spending on food and drink (50.78% increase) and entertainment and leisure (28.79% increase) were all up significantly compared to last August. The changes come as a result of a mixture of price increases and a return to normal living activities, compared to lockdowns in several states that impacted spending in August 2021.
- Spending on petrol has increased by 22% month-to-month as supply issues continue to push up oil prices.

**Beforepay CEO, Jamie Twiss**, said: "The August release of the Beforepay Cost of Living Index once again demonstrates the significant impact the current economic environment is having on working Australians."

"Our data shows that over the past month spending has gone up on average 25% across all the categories we measure. This includes considerable increases to the household essentials such as groceries, petrol and utilities."

"Supply issues and the rebound of the oil market continues to push up the price of petrol, while supply chain issues continue to increase the price of groceries."

"Interestingly we saw shopping has only increased by 12% month-to-month, which was the smallest increase across all the categories we measure. This could suggest that Australians are starting to curb their discretionary spend given the current economic landscape."

## About the Beforepay Cost of Living Index

The Beforepay Cost of Living Index shows the average daily spend of Beforepay registered users across multiple household expense categories. The average income of customers in the sample is approximately \$56,000 and the average age is 33, with a broadly representative geographic and gender breakdown. The data may vary depending on the main bank account linked with Beforepay. To the maximum extent permitted by law, Beforepay and its related bodies corporate, make no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or reliability of the contents of this article and do not accept any liability for any loss whatsoever arising from the use of this article or its contents or otherwise arising in connection with it.

 <b>Cost of Living Index</b> August 2022 Update													
B	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2022
<b>Cost Of Living Index</b>	<b>\$58.50</b>	<b>\$57.91</b>	<b>\$58.57</b>	<b>\$60.23</b>	<b>\$61.21</b>	<b>\$55.95</b>	<b>\$58.68</b>	<b>\$61.68</b>	<b>\$59.35</b>	<b>\$57.36</b>	<b>\$56.24</b>	<b>\$66.46</b>	<b>\$83.27</b>
Sub Categories													
<b>Groceries</b>	\$16.29	\$15.78	\$15.37	\$15.28	\$15.05	\$14.88	\$14.95	\$15.38	\$14.82	\$14.74	\$14.41	\$15.96	<b>\$18.89</b>
<b>Food &amp; Drink</b>	\$9.65	\$9.64	\$10.44	\$10.91	\$10.64	\$10.13	\$10.46	\$11.49	\$11.27	\$10.67	\$10.55	\$12.58	<b>\$14.55</b>
<b>Petrol And Auto</b>	\$8.11	\$8.09	\$8.11	\$8.31	\$8.24	\$7.77	\$8.41	\$8.76	\$8.14	\$8.10	\$8.08	\$8.71	<b>\$10.63</b>
<b>Shopping</b>	\$6.72	\$6.57	\$7.07	\$7.93	\$9.50	\$6.43	\$7.04	\$7.78	\$7.49	\$7.17	\$7.06	\$9.39	<b>\$10.55</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	\$5.08	\$5.14	\$5.09	\$4.98	\$4.83	\$5.00	\$5.31	\$5.33	\$5.02	\$5.15	\$5.15	\$5.83	<b>\$8.02</b>
<b>Entertainment &amp; Leisure</b>	\$3.30	\$3.30	\$3.29	\$3.68	\$3.74	\$3.33	\$3.61	\$3.68	\$3.52	\$3.10	\$2.57	\$3.17	<b>\$4.25</b>
<b>Durable Shopping</b>	\$7.20	\$7.16	\$7.05	\$6.99	\$6.87	\$6.28	\$6.66	\$7.08	\$6.88	\$6.26	\$6.25	\$8.28	<b>\$12.53</b>
<b>Fitness &amp; Health</b>	\$2.15	\$2.23	\$2.15	\$2.15	\$2.34	\$2.13	\$2.24	\$2.18	\$2.21	\$2.17	\$2.17	\$2.54	<b>\$3.85</b>

Note: Data is derived from Beforepay data, not adjusted for seasonality. It is provided for general info only and shouldn't be relied on. See full disclaimer at [blog.beforepay.com.au/the-beforepay-cost-of-living-index-august-2022](http://blog.beforepay.com.au/the-beforepay-cost-of-living-index-august-2022)

For more information about the Cost of Living Index visit:  
[www.blog.beforepay.com.au/the-beforepay-cost-of-living-index-july-2022](http://www.blog.beforepay.com.au/the-beforepay-cost-of-living-index-july-2022)

– ENDS

For more information, please contact:

**Jeremy Arnold**  
**Communications Lead, Beforepay**  
 0401 552 162  
[mediaenquiries@beforepay.com.au](mailto:mediaenquiries@beforepay.com.au)



## About Beforepay

- Beforepay was founded in 2019 to support working Australians who have not been well-served by the traditional financial-services industry.
- Beforepay is an ethical, customer-friendly way to help people manage temporary cash- flow challenges.
- We've created a simple, transparent and inexpensive fee model that gives our customers total control. Importantly, unlike traditional products like credit cards, we charge only a small transaction fee, zero interest and no late fees.
- We take our commitment to providing funds responsibly very seriously, and that includes only providing funds to people who meet our strict safeguards.
- Our app also includes free budgeting tools and spending insights. For more information visit: [www.beforepay.com.au](http://www.beforepay.com.au)