



January 2022 / CE Ref-J3324

Statistical Note NOV/DEC 2021 - ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

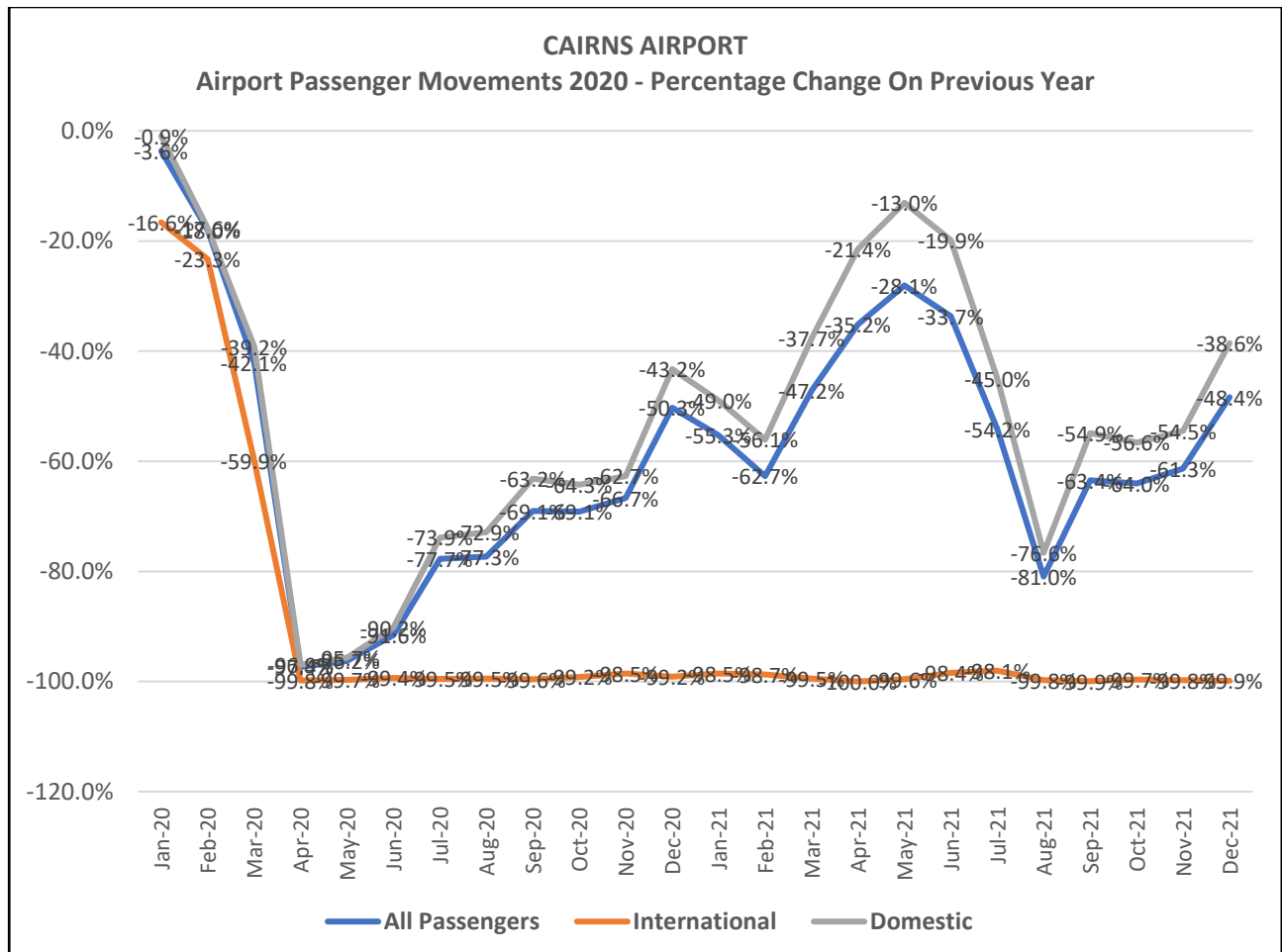
RECOVERY RESUMES

November and December figures indicate that after a patch in August, September and into October, when recovery stalled, an upward path was returning but with normal seasonal downturns on employment and dwelling approvals evident in December.

AIRPORT PASSENGERS COMING BACK

With the opening of the Queensland interstate borders in December, a strong upward movement occurred but with numbers still down 48% on pre-Covid December levels (domestic terminal 38% down).

Chart 1 – Airport Passenger Movements 2021 - Percentage Change on Previous Year – Cairns Airport

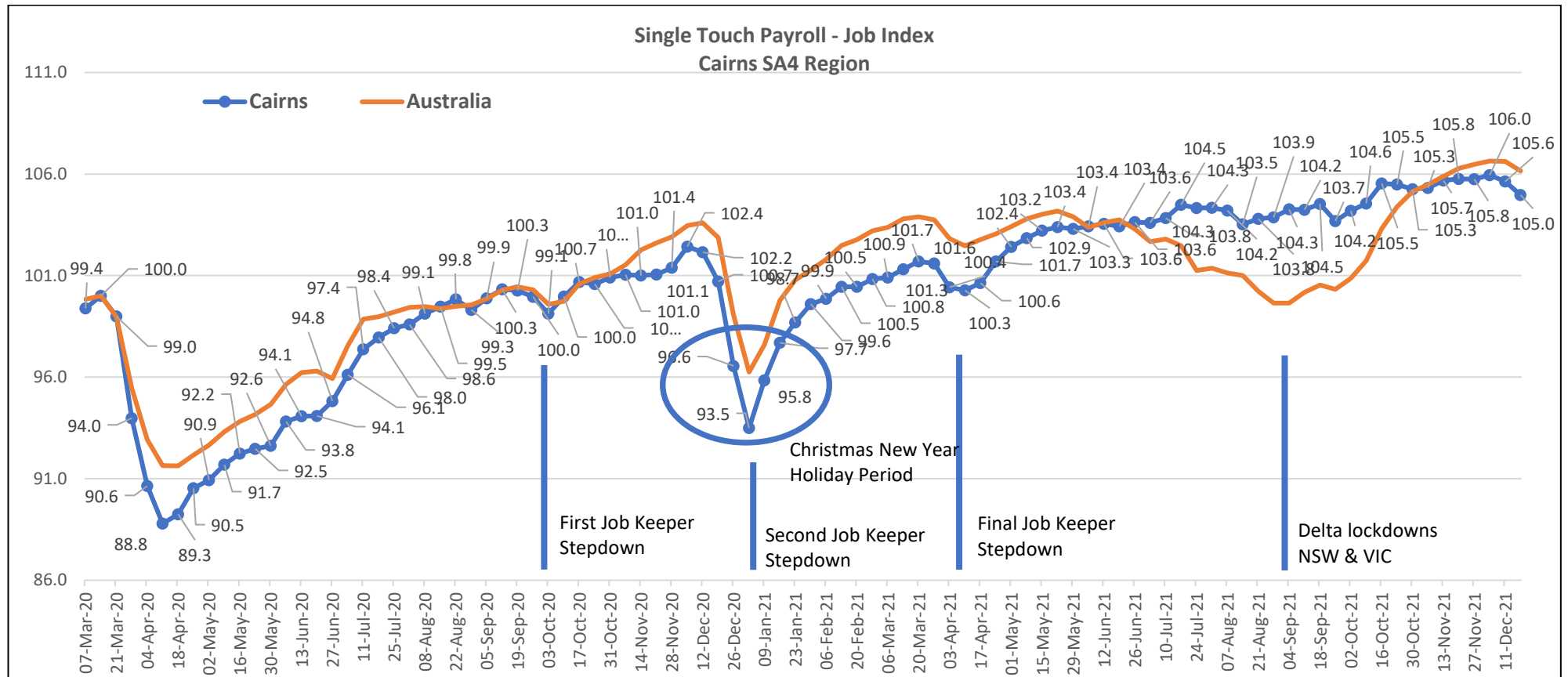


Source: Cummings Economics from Cairns Airport.

SINGLE TOUCH PAYROLL – JOBS INDEX – GROWTH RESUMES – NATIONAL INDEX

The figures indicate a strong recovery has taken place at national level after the lockdowns in NSW, Victoria and elsewhere over the July/August/September period. The figures indicate that the Cairns region was less affected with growth stalling but recovering in November but not as strongly. The most recent figures up to mid-December are indicating a seasonal dip that takes place over the Xmas/New Year period.

Chart 2 – Single Touch Payroll – Jobs Index, Cairns SA4 Region & Australia-Wide



Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics.



JOBSEEKER NUMBERS SEASONAL LIFT

JobSeeker numbers rose strongly in December in the Cairns region. This rise appears to be seasonal. (See December previous year.)

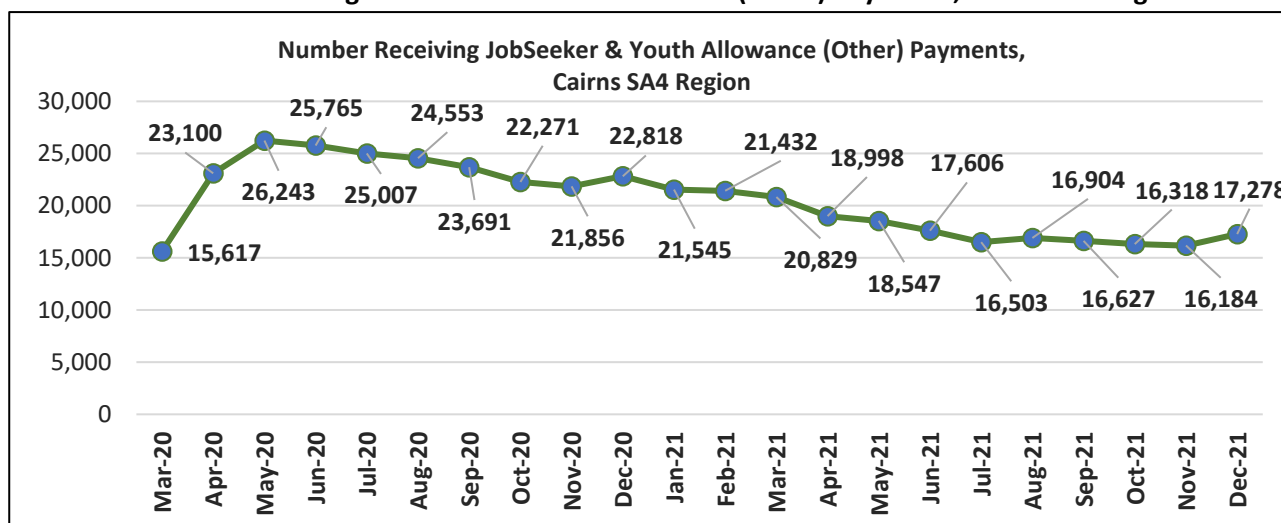
Table 1 – Numbers Receiving JobSeeker & Youth Allowance (Other)

Period	Cairns ⁽¹⁾	Cairns SA4 Region ⁽²⁾
March 2020	9,256	15,617
April 2020	14,433	23,100
May 2020	16,181	26,243
June 2020	15,871	25,765
July 2020	15,476	25,007
August 2020	15,234	24,553
September 2020	14,651	23,691
October 2020	14,042	22,271
November 2020	13,661	21,856
December 2020	14,153	22,818
January 2021	13,380	21,545
February 2021	13,235	21,432
March 2021	12,824	20,829
April 2021	11,526	18,998
May 2021	11,258	18,547
June 2021	10,588	17,606
July 2021	9,851	16,503
August 2021	9,092	16,904
September 2021	9,930	16,627
October 2021	9,791	16,318
November 2021	9,654	16,184
December 2021	10,285	17,278

Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Department of Social Services.

Note ⁽¹⁾: Cairns LGA excluding Babinda. Note ⁽²⁾: Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Mareeba, Douglas.

Chart 3 – Numbers Receiving JobSeeker & Youth Allowance (Other) Payments, Cairns SA4 Region

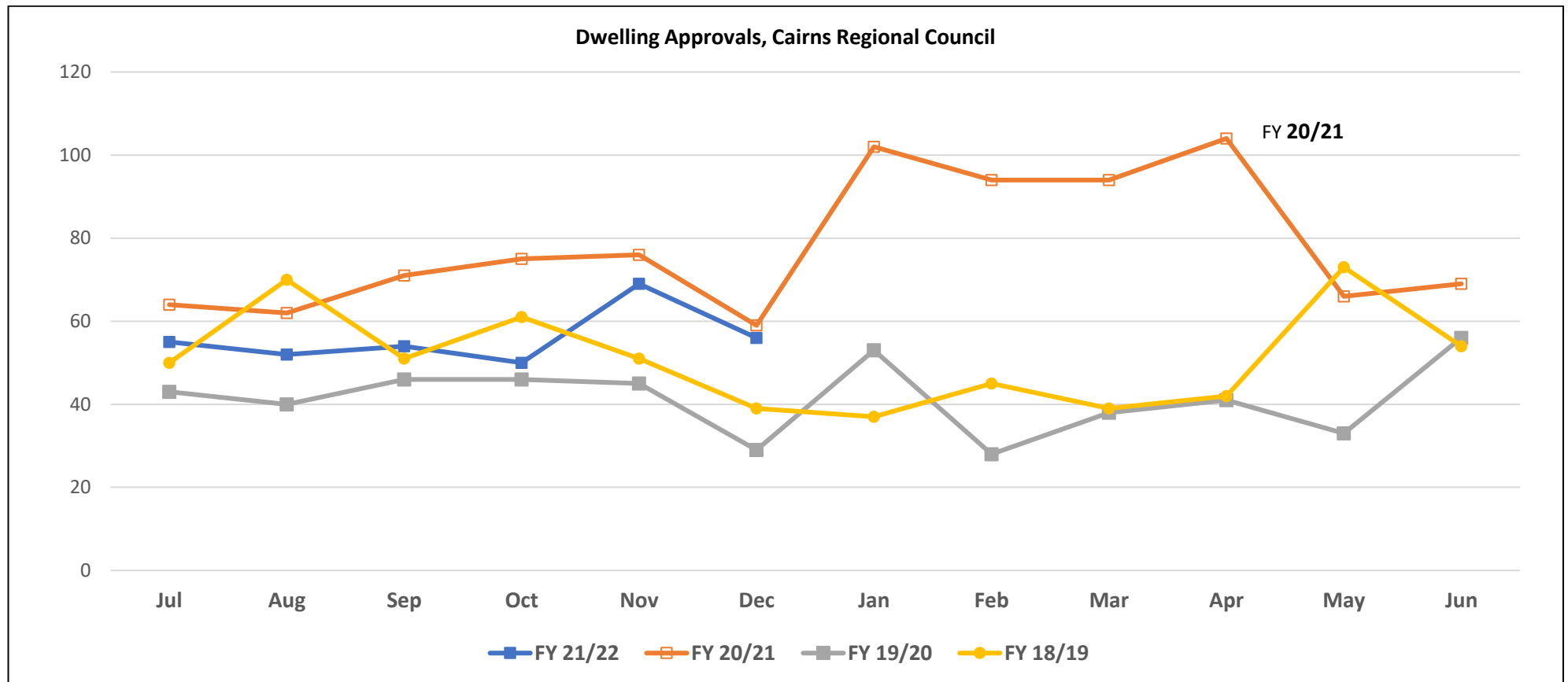


Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Department of Social Services.

CONSTRUCTION – DWELLING APPROVALS SEASONAL DIP

The chart indicates a drop in December in dwelling approvals in Cairns Regional Council area was seasonal. An influence on this would be supply side capacity and construction sector capacity problems now being experienced.

Chart 4 – Dwelling Approvals, Cairns Regional Council



Source: Cummings Economics from Cairns Regional Council.

