

Reference No. 10.75

MINERAL EXPLORATION (other than for petroleum), AUSTRALIA EXPENDITURE BY PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISES

DECEMBER QUARTER 1974

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin is the first issue of a new series containing quarterly statistics of expenditure on mineral exploration in Australia (other than for petroleum). Details are given for the four quarters of 1974, together with anticipated expenditure for the half years ending December 1974 and June 1975. More detailed information on mineral exploration (including petroleum exploration) on an annual basis, will be shown in *Mineral Exploration, 1973-74* (Reference No. 10.41) to be published shortly.

COVERAGE

2. Details of expenditure are collected only from the *principal enterprises* undertaking exploration activity. For any quarter these comprise:-

- All government authorities engaged in mineral exploration.
- Private enterprises who in the 1972-73 Annual Mineral Exploration Census reported anticipated exploration expenditure for the following year (i.e. for 1973-74) in excess of \$100,000.
- Other private enterprises known to have spent more than \$50,000 in the quarter.

DEFINITION

3. Exploration is defined as the search for, and/or appraisal of, new ore occurrences and known deposits of minerals (including extensions to deposits being worked) by geological, geophysical, geochemical and other methods (including drilling). Exploration for water is excluded. The construction of shafts and adits is included if primarily for exploration purposes. Excluded are mine development activities (which include the construction of drives, shafts, winzes, etc.) in underground mines and the preparation of quarrying sites for open-cut extraction (including overburden removal).

CLASSIFICATION

4. The data obtained in the survey are classified into the following categories:-

- Private exploration on production leases* relates to exploration carried out on the production lease by privately operated mines currently producing or under development for production of minerals.
- Other private exploration* relates to exploration carried out by private enterprises on areas

covered by exploration licences, authorities to enter, authorities to prospect, and similar licences and authorities issued by State governments for exploration of minerals. Also included is exploration by private enterprises which is not directly connected with areas under lease, licence, etc., including general surveys, aerial surveys, report writing, map preparation and other off-site activities not directly attributable to particular lease or licence areas.

(iii) *Exploration by government* relates to exploration for minerals carried out by -

- State Mines Departments and business undertakings operated by State and local government authorities.
- Australian Government (Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, the Joint Coal Board, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Petroleum and Minerals Authority and the Mines Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory).

ANTICIPATED EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

5. "Anticipated expenditure" represents the expenditures anticipated at the beginning of the half year by government authorities and those private enterprises included in the collection. Subsequent events (e.g. discoveries of new orebodies, unexpected weather conditions, unforeseen changes in economic conditions), however may cause revisions to exploration plans.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

6. Seasonally adjusted statistics are NOT shown in this bulletin. When a sufficient number of observations to estimate the seasonal pattern are available, seasonally adjusted series may be included. In the meantime, the user of these statistics is cautioned against making quarter to quarter comparisons of the statistics without realising that such comparisons may be affected by seasonality in the series.

QUARTERLY PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

7. The Bureau has recently commenced a quarterly survey of expenditure on petroleum exploration in Australia. It is intended to commence publication of the statistics towards the end of 1975.

ROUNDING

8. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE BY PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISES (a), AUSTRALIA - ACTUAL AND ANTICIPATED (\$ million)

Period	Private expenditure			Government expenditure			
	Expenditure on production leases	Other private expenditure	Total private expenditure	State government	Australian government	Total government expenditure	Total expenditure
Actual expenditure							
quarter ended -							
1973-74							
March	2.5	15.9	18.4	1.2	1.2	2.4	20.8
June	3.1	19.9	23.0	1.9	1.6	3.5	26.5
1974-75							
September	3.3	22.5	25.8	1.7	1.4	3.0	28.9
December	3.4	29.3	32.6	2.0	1.8	3.8	36.4
Anticipated expenditure							
six months ended -							
December 1974	n.a.	n.a.	51.1	3.5	3.1	6.6	57.7
June 1975	n.a.	n.a.	47.0	3.6	4.1	7.7	54.6

(a) See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes for definition of coverage. n.a. not available.

TABLE 2. - ANNUAL MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE BY ALL ENTERPRISES (a), AUSTRALIA (\$ million)

Period	Private expenditure			Government expenditure			
	Expenditure on production leases	Other private expenditure	Total private expenditure	State government	Australian government	Total government expenditure	Total expenditure
1969-70	21.1	97.0	118.1	2.7	4.0	6.7	124.8
1970-71	27.6	133.5	161.1	3.4	3.9	7.3	168.4
1971-72	21.2	95.9	117.1	3.7	4.6	8.3	125.4
1972-73	13.7	86.0	99.7	4.3	5.1	9.4	109.1
1973-74p	14.4	87.3	101.7	5.6(b)	5.3(b)	10.9(b)	112.6

(a) The statistics in this table are derived from the Annual Census of Mineral Exploration Expenditure in Australia, in which data are obtained from all companies or organisations engaged in exploration. (b) As a result of changes which were made to definitions of government expenditure in 1973-74 these statistics are NOT COMPARABLE with those published for previous years. p - Preliminary.

J. G. MILLER
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr B. Thorp on 49 0391 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.