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ACTUAL AND EXPECTED PRIVATE MINERAL EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1989

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum)

Mineral exploration expenditure for the September quarter 1989 decreased by 10.3% (\$17.2m) from the June quarter 1989 to \$149.6m, compared with a 17.8% (\$39.3m) fall over the same period of 1988.

The decrease can be principally attributed to a \$17.6m (16.3%) fall in gold exploration expenditure, partly offset by a \$4.0m (17.6%) increase in base metals exploration expenditure.

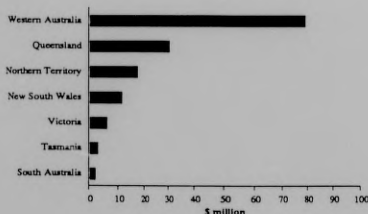
Explorers reported a lack of funds as the principal factor contributing to the fall from the seasonally high June quarter.

All States with the exception of Victoria and the Northern Territory recorded decreases in expenditure. Tasmania showed the largest percentage fall of 30% (\$1.2m) and Western Australia showed the largest dollar fall of \$13.8m (15%).

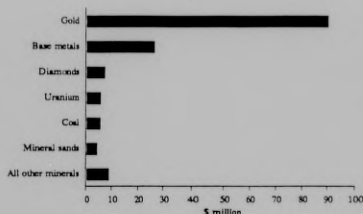
Drilling activity remained static at 1,523 thousand metres for the quarter. However, the breakdown between drilling on production leases and on all other areas changed. In the June quarter 1989 drilling on production leases accounted for 28% (421 thousand metres) of all drilling, and this fell to only 22% (335 thousand metres) in the September quarter.

EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE FOR THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1989

BY STATE



BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT



Petroleum exploration

Petroleum exploration expenditure fell by 14.9% (\$22.9m) from the June quarter 1989 to \$131.2m in the September quarter compared with an increase of 14.1% (\$19.1m) in the previous quarter and an increase of 7.4% (\$10.5m) in the same quarter of 1988.

Onshore exploration expenditure dropped by 21.4% (\$9.5m) compared to a fall of only 12.3% (\$13.5m) in offshore exploration expenditure.

TABLE 1 - PRIVATE EXPLORATION: ACTUAL AND EXPECTED EXPENDITURE

Period	Mineral (other than petroleum)			Petroleum onshore				Petroleum offshore			
	Expenditure		Actual as a percentage of Expected	Expenditure		Actual as a percentage of Expected		Expenditure		Actual as a percentage of Expected	
	Actual	Expected(a)		Actual	Expected(a)			Actual	Expected(a)		
	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%		\$m	\$m	%	
1984-85	437.3	419.4	104.3	419.6	404.1	103.8		373.6	329.6	113.3	
1985-86	442.0	394.1	112.2	367.8	383.4	95.9		398.0	460.2	86.5	
1986-87	556.8	516.5	107.8	171.0	171.3	99.8		134.1	114.9	116.7	
1987-88	799.2	607.5	131.6	271.9	304.9	89.2		223.2	181.2	123.2	
1988-89	696.4	600.0	116.1	233.1	301.1	77.4		404.6	404.1	100.1	
Six months ended											
June 1988	404.9	315.0	128.5	118.3	135.5	87.3		121.1	121.0	100.1	
December 1988	378.5	318.0	119.0	145.7	128.9	113.0		202.7	210.9	96.1	
June 1989	317.9	282.0	112.7	87.4	172.2	50.8		201.8	194.1	104.0	
December 1989	n.y.a.	281.9	..	n.y.a.	111.8	..		n.y.a.	158.4	..	

(a) As reported in a previous census. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 9.

TABLE 2 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE AND METRES DRILLED

Period	Expenditure (\$ million)			Metres drilled ('000 metres)		
	On production leases	Other	Total	On production leases	Other	Total
1984-85	44.7	392.7	437.3	646	2,745	3,391
1985-86	63.8	378.3	442.0	737	2,800	3,537
1986-87	115.2	441.6	556.8	1,169	3,794	4,963
1987-88	151.9	647.3	799.2	1,839	6,519	8,358
1988-89	114.2	582.2	696.4	1,818	4,741	6,559
1987-88 -						
June quarter	44.2	177.0	221.2	633	1,501	2,134
1988-89 -						
September quarter	28.0	153.9	181.9	594	1,443	2,037
December quarter	33.7	162.9	196.6	456	1,175	1,631
March quarter	28.1	123.1	151.2	346	1,021	1,367
June quarter	24.4	142.4	166.8	421	1,102	1,523
1989-90 -						
September quarter	22.2	127.4	149.6	335	1,187	1,523

TABLE 3 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE BY STATE (\$ million)

Period	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	Australia
1984-85	49.5	15.2	79.5	57.6	189.8	17.8	28.0	437.3
1985-86	51.8	12.3	88.6	48.9	205.2	10.6	24.6	442.0
1986-87	47.6	15.5	120.6	11.0	323.3	10.9	27.9	556.8
1987-88	61.5	33.9	159.3	18.9	466.3	10.4	48.9	799.2
1988-89	50.6	21.5	134.4	16.5	390.8	15.2	67.4	696.4
1988-89 -								
September quarter	12.1	5.1	35.3	4.6	104.7	2.5	17.5	181.9
December quarter	15.7	6.6	36.0	6.4	106.9	3.9	21.1	196.6
March quarter	10.8	4.1	30.7	3.0	86.5	4.5	11.6	151.2
June quarter	12.0	5.6	32.4	2.4	92.8	4.3	17.2	166.8
1989-90								
September quarter	11.4	6.1	30.5	2.2	79.0	3.1	17.4	149.6

TABLE 4 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT BY STATE, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1989
(\$ million)

	Copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel and cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	Uranium	Coal	Construction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
New South Wales	3.5	2.4	-	1.5	-	-	2.2	0.1	0.3	1.5	11.4
Victoria	0.1	5.4	-	n.p.	-	-	-	-	-	n.p.	6.1
Queensland	9.4	16.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	2.5	0.1	0.2	0.9	30.5
South Australia	1.1	0.3	n.p.	0.2	-	0.1	n.p.	-	0.3	0.1	2.2
Western Australia	9.5	54.4	2.1	1.8	0.1	1.9	1.0	0.5	5.1	2.7	79.0
Tasmania	1.3	1.3	n.p.	0.1	0.2	-	n.p.	-	-	0.2	3.1
Northern Territory	1.7	10.5	-	n.p.	0.1	3.4	-	-	1.6	n.p.	17.4
Australia	26.5	90.4	2.2	4.5	0.5	5.9	5.7	0.7	7.5	5.6	149.6

TABLE 5 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT, AUSTRALIA
(\$ million)

Period	Copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel and cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	Uranium	Coal	Construction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
1984-85	134.8	177.0	15.8	2.4	14.2	13.1	34.6	0.5	28.6	16.5	437.3
1985-86	79.1	214.5	11.6	5.9	7.7	50.2	32.2	1.7	23.1	16.1	442.0
1986-87	76.9	357.4	11.6	7.3	3.0	22.0	36.6	3.3	17.2	21.6	556.8
1987-88	83.9	581.0	11.8	12.5	2.8	23.2	24.5	0.9	24.3	34.1	799.2
1988-89	98.1	451.4	7.1	17.4	1.4	28.3	25.8	1.1	32.7	33.1	696.4
1988-89 -											
September quarter	20.6	122.4	2.4	3.8	0.1	8.9	6.9	0.1	9.1	7.6	181.9
December quarter	31.1	126.0	1.6	3.6	0.4	10.7	7.5	0.3	8.6	7.0	196.6
March quarter	23.9	95.1	1.5	4.0	0.4	4.1	5.1	0.2	6.6	10.3	151.2
June quarter	22.5	108.0	1.6	6.0	0.4	4.6	6.3	0.6	8.4	8.3	166.8
1989-90 -											
September quarter	26.5	90.4	2.2	4.5	0.5	5.9	5.7	0.7	7.5	5.6	149.6

TABLE 6 - PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE
(\$ million)

Period	Onshore			Offshore			Total expenditure		
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total	On production leases	Other	Total
1984-85	224.2	195.4	419.6	284.6	89.0	373.6	n.a.	n.a.	793.2
1985-86	149.6	218.1	367.8	277.5	120.5	398.0	59.3	706.5	765.8
1986-87	69.7	101.3	171.0	78.5	55.7	134.1	51.3	253.9	305.2
1987-88	154.8	117.1	271.9	137.7	85.5	223.2	122.8	372.3	495.1
1988-89	136.4	96.8	233.1	299.2	105.3	404.6	129.7	508.0	637.7
1987-88 -									
June quarter	35.6	26.4	62.0	53.3	26.0	79.3	31.5	109.9	141.3
1988-89 -									
September quarter	43.3	24.0	67.3	57.9	26.6	84.5	35.8	115.9	151.8
December quarter	48.3	30.1	78.4	88.3	29.9	118.2	35.4	161.3	196.6
March quarter	23.6	19.4	43.0	65.6	26.4	92.0	23.2	111.8	135.0
June quarter	21.1	23.3	44.4	87.4	22.4	109.8	35.2	119.0	154.1
1989-90 -									
September quarter	18.7	16.2	34.9	74.8	21.5	96.3	24.4	106.8	131.2

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains annual and quarterly statistics of private sector exploration for minerals (other than oil shale) in Australia (excluding the A.C.T.).

Source

2. Data collected and compiled from the exploration censuses conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Scope

3. All exploration activity is included regardless of the main activity of the explorer.

Coverage

4. Details of exploration are collected from all private enterprises known to be engaged in exploration.

Classification

5. The following categories are used:

(a) *Production lease/Other*, where a *production lease* is an area on which production or development is actually taking place.

(b) *Onshore/Offshore*, where *offshore* includes all operations in a marine area under the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967 or under any Acts administered by State governments.

(c) *Drilling/Other*, where *drilling expenditure* includes cost of access (roads, vessel hire, etc.) to the drilling site and site preparation etc., and *other expenditure* includes costs of surveys, report writing, map preparation and all other activities attributable to exploration.

Definitions

6. *Minerals*. In the broad sense comprise metallic minerals, construction materials, gemstones, other non-metallic minerals, oil shale and petroleum (oil or gas).

7. *Exploration*. The search for new ore occurrences or undiscovered oil or gas, and/or appraisal intended to delineate or greatly extend the limits of known deposits of minerals or oil or gas reservoirs by geological, geophysical, geochemical, drilling or other methods. This includes construction of shafts and adits primarily for exploration purposes but excludes activity of a developmental or production nature. Exploration for water is excluded.

8. *Exploration expenditure*. All expenditure on exploration activity in Australia. It includes expenditure on aerial surveys (including landsat photographs), general surveys, report writing, map preparation and other activities indirectly attributable to exploration. Cash bids for offshore petroleum exploration permits are also included.

9. *Expected expenditure*. This refers to expected expenditure on exploration as reported by private enterprise explorers who were included in the previous census. The number of explorers reporting actual expenditure for any

given period will be greater than the number that reported expected expenditure in a previous census because of enterprises which subsequently commenced exploration. In addition, events such as new discoveries, unexpected weather conditions, government policy changes and unforeseen changes in economic conditions may cause actual expenditures to differ from those previously expected. The differences between actual and expected expenditure can be seen in Table 1.

Related publications

10. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

11. Publications showing details of wells and metres drilled in petroleum exploration are available from the Petroleum Branch of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

Symbols and other usages

n.y.a.	not yet available
n.p.	not available for separate publication but included in totals
n.a.	not available
..	not applicable
-	nil or rounded to zero

12. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and their totals.

13. The figures shown in this publication have been revised where necessary and as a consequence may not agree with similar data shown in previous publications.

Electronic services

VIATEL	Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics
AUSSTATS	Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET. For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.
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