

ACTUAL AND EXPECTED PRIVATE MINERAL EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA JUNE QUARTER 1993

MAIN FEATURES

Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum)

Exploration expenditure for the June quarter 1993 increased by 40.9 per cent from the March quarter 1993. Expenditure on production leases decreased by 7.8 per cent to \$35.5 million and expenditure on all other areas increased by 63.1 per cent to \$137.8 million.

All states had increased exploration expenditure, with increases ranging from 7.1 per cent in Victoria to 82.1 per cent in the Northern Territory. Exploration for all minerals except mineral sands and construction materials increased.

Exploration expenditure for the six months ended June 1993 amounted to \$296.3 million, which was 7.4 per cent higher than was expected by explorers at the beginning of the period.

Exploration expenditure for 1992-93 totalled \$631.8 million which was slightly higher than the 1991-92 total of \$604.0 million. Gold continued to be the mainstay of the exploration industry, accounting for 50.7 per cent of total expenditure. Base metals account for 29.0 per cent and exploration for diamonds has increased to account for 6.0 per cent of total expenditure as compared to 5.9 per cent in 1991-92.

Total drilling activity increased in the June quarter 1993 by 64.5 per cent; from 1.3 million metres in March quarter 1993 to 2.1 million metres. Drilling activity on production leases increased by 7.6 per cent to 480,000 metres. For all other areas it increased 95.4 per cent to 1.6 million metres.

Petroleum exploration

Expenditure on petroleum exploration in the June quarter 1993 increased by 18.6 per cent, from \$130.4 million in the March quarter 1993 to \$154.7 million.

Total expenditure for the six months ended June 1993 amounted to \$285.1 million, which was \$17.7 million (6.6 per cent) higher than was expected by explorers at the start of the period.

Exploration expenditure for 1992-93 totalled \$611.9 million, 29.1 per cent more than the 1991-92 total of \$473.9 million. Onshore exploration expenditure fell by 14.9 per cent to \$115.2 million and offshore exploration expenditure rose by 46.6 per cent to \$496.7 million.

MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)
EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT BY STATE, 1992-93
(\$ million)

	Copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel and cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	Uranium	Coal	Con- struction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
New South Wales	31.2	13.0	—	1.8	n.p.	n.p.	7.7	0.7	n.p.	5.8	60.9
Victoria	2.5	6.9	—	0.5	n.p.	—	—	—	n.p.	2.2	12.2
Queensland	57.5	35.8	—	1.5	n.p.	0.9	15.0	—	n.p.	6.6	117.9
South Australia	13.6	2.4	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	—	0.9	2.2	21.3
Western Australia	60.0	221.2	23.7	5.3	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29.0	4.1	348.1
Tasmania	5.6	1.6	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	0.1	n.p.	—	n.p.	7.8
Northern Territory	13.0	39.0	—	0.4	—	2.7	n.p.	—	7.5	n.p.	63.5
Australia	183.4	320.1	24.0	9.8	0.5	8.8	24.2	1.1	38.1	21.9	631.8

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Nicole Pikos on Darwin (089) 43 2171 or any ABS office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

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	per cent	\$m	\$m	per cent	\$m	\$m	per cent
1987-88	802.2	607.5	132.0	271.9	304.9	89.2	223.2	181.2	123.2
1988-89	697.6	578.8	121.5	233.6	301.1	77.6	405.7	404.9	100.2
1989-90 (b)	607.5	539.1	112.7	143.2	216.1	66.3	439.4	413.8	106.2
1990-91	601.7	452.6	132.9	217.1	165.8	130.9	365.4	326.8	111.8
1991-92	604.0	466.5	129.5	135.3	191.3	70.7	338.8	344.0	98.5
1992-93	631.8	532.8	118.6	115.2	131.1	87.9	496.7	438.5	113.3
Six months ended									
June 1992	286.3	244.3	117.2	52.9	37.9	91.4	146.9	147.0	99.9
December 1992	335.5	257.0	130.5	68.6	70.3	97.6	258.2	231.8	111.4
June 1993	296.3	275.8	107.4	46.6	60.8	76.6	238.5	206.6	115.4
December 1993	n.y.a.	233.6	-	n.y.a.	59.9	-	n.y.a.	224.1	-

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

Period	Expenditure (\$ million)			Metres drilled ('000 metres)		
	On production leases	On all other areas	Total	On production leases	On all other areas	Total
1987-88	151.9	650.3	802.2	1,839	6,519	8,358
1988-89	111.9	585.7	697.6	1,812	4,765	6,577
1989-90 (a)	90.3	517.3	607.5	1,598	4,735	6,332
1990-91	115.4	486.3	601.7	1,760	4,452	6,212
1991-92	130.9	473.1	604.0	1,626	4,253	5,877
1992-93	148.4	483.4	631.8	1,944	5,049	6,993
1991-92 —						
March quarter	32.0	93.4	125.3	427	772	1,199
June quarter	33.2	127.8	161.0	389	1,110	1,499
1992-93 —						
September quarter	37.6	123.3	160.9	494	1,144	1,638
December quarter	36.8	137.8	174.6	524	1,477	2,001
March quarter	38.5	84.5	123.0	446	822	1,268
June quarter	35.5	137.8	173.3	480	1,606	2,086

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 4.

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

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Australia
1987-88	64.5	33.9	159.3	18.9	466.3	10.4	48.9	802.2
1988-89	50.6	21.7	139.8	16.6	387.2	13.1	68.6	697.6
1989-90 (a)	55.1	21.0	128.4	13.2	315.4	11.8	62.6	607.5
1990-91	60.6	12.7	124.1	15.5	324.8	9.9	53.9	601.7
1991-92	63.3	12.6	109.9	19.7	332.8	7.9	57.8	604.0
1992-93	60.9	12.2	117.9	21.3	348.1	7.8	63.5	631.8
1991-92 —								
March quarter	15.5	3.7	20.8	3.3	69.3	1.9	10.8	125.3
June quarter	15.9	3.7	31.0	4.9	87.4	1.4	16.7	161.0
1992-93 —								
September quarter	15.4	3.0	33.0	5.5	86.5	1.1	16.4	160.9
December quarter	20.3	3.4	34.5	5.9	91.6	1.7	17.2	174.6
March quarter	9.1	2.8	20.2	3.8	74.2	2.2	10.6	123.0
June quarter	16.1	3.0	30.2	6.1	95.8	2.8	19.3	173.3

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 4.

TABLE 4. MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)
EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT BY STATE, JUNE QUARTER 1993
(\$ million)

	Copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel and cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	Uranium	Coal	Con- struction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
New South Wales	7.0	3.9	—	0.4	—	—	2.9	—	0.1	1.6	16.1
Victoria	0.4	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.	n.p.	3.0
Queensland	15.7	9.1	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	2.6	—	—	1.9	30.2
South Australia	4.1	0.6	—	n.p.	—	0.4	—	—	n.p.	0.8	6.1
Western Australia	17.6	61.4	4.3	1.4	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	8.8	0.9	95.8
Tasmania	1.8	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	2.8
Northern Territory	2.9	12.8	—	n.p.	—	0.7	n.p.	—	2.6	n.p.	19.3
Australia	49.4	91.1	4.5	2.6	0.1	1.9	6.2	0.1	11.7	5.7	173.3

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	Con- struction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
1987-88	83.9	581.0	11.8	12.5	2.8	23.2	27.5	0.9	24.3	34.1	802.2
1988-89	100.4	448.5	7.0	16.5	1.4	28.3	29.0	1.1	32.6	32.7	697.6
1989-90 (a)	118.0	341.3	11.3	19.3	2.8	18.8	33.4	2.8	37.2	22.8	607.5
1990-91	171.8	300.8	11.2	19.2	2.4	12.8	23.1	2.7	39.0	18.5	601.7
1991-92	144.9	304.7	36.9	13.9	1.7	12.8	27.5	1.6	35.7	24.3	604.0
1992-93	183.4	320.1	24.0	9.8	0.5	8.8	24.2	1.1	38.1	21.9	631.8
1991-92 —											
March quarter	25.1	67.8	6.3	3.2	0.4	2.1	8.3	0.3	6.0	5.8	125.3
June quarter	40.7	78.1	10.2	3.5	0.4	3.2	7.5	0.2	10.5	6.7	161.0
1992-93 —											
September quarter	45.6	75.5	9.5	1.9	0.3	3.1	7.1	0.4	11.0	6.5	160.9
December quarter	55.9	83.8	7.2	2.6	0.1	2.5	7.1	0.3	9.6	5.5	174.6
March quarter	32.5	69.7	2.8	2.7	—	1.3	3.8	0.3	5.8	4.2	123.0
June quarter	49.4	91.1	4.5	2.6	0.1	1.9	6.2	0.1	11.7	5.7	173.3

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 4.

TABLE 6. PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE
(\$ million)

Period	Total expenditure								
	Onshore			Offshore					
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total	On production leases	On all other areas	Total
1987-88	154.8	117.1	271.9	137.7	85.5	223.2	122.8	372.3	495.1
1988-89	136.1	97.5	233.6	299.4	106.2	405.7	130.1	509.2	639.3
1989-90	73.8	69.5	143.2	749.8	89.6	439.4	65.5	517.2	582.6
1990-91	128.8	88.3	217.1	257.1	108.4	365.4	131.2	451.4	582.6
1991-92	60.5	75.0	135.3	142.2	196.4	338.8	70.4	403.6	473.9
1992-93	62.8	52.4	115.2	283.7	213.1	496.7	69.1	542.9	611.9
1991-92 —									
March quarter	11.5	16.0	27.4	15.0	54.8	69.9	9.4	87.9	97.2
June quarter	9.1	16.4	25.5	28.3	48.7	77.0	16.4	86.1	102.5
1992-93 —									
September quarter	18.1	16.4	34.6	56.7	49.0	105.6	21.6	118.6	140.2
December quarter	19.0	15.1	34.0	77.4	75.2	152.6	21.3	165.4	186.6
March quarter	11.7	r8.2	r19.9	r58.6	r52.0	r110.6	13.0	r117.4	r130.4
June quarter	14.0	12.7	26.7	91.0	36.9	127.9	13.2	141.5	154.7

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains annual and quarterly statistics of private sector exploration for minerals (other than oil shale) in Australia.

Source

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

Scope and Coverage

3. All exploration activity is included, regardless of the main activity of the explorer. Details of exploration are collected from all private enterprises known to be engaged in exploration.

4. From September quarter 1989, details of mineral explorers reporting less than \$5,000 per quarter have been excluded from the Tables, resulting in a small break in the series from 1989-90. Data linking the two collection methodologies for Tables 2, 3 and 5 are contained in the September quarter 1990 issue.

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 these comprise metallic minerals, construction materials, gemstones, other non-metallic minerals, oil shale and petroleum (oil or gas).
- 7. *Exploration*. This includes 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*. This covers 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. 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 and Products, 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 Resource Assessment Branch of the Bureau of Resource Sciences (formerly the BMR).

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
r	figures revised since previous issue

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

13. Percentage changes shown in this publication have been calculated on actual figures as reported by explorers.

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