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GOLD MINING INDUSTRY - AUSTRALIA - MAY, 1949.

Particulars of the gold mining industry of Australia for the month of May, 1949 have been made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

PRODUCTION.

Production of gold during May, 1949 was 70,483 fine ounces, valued at £2758,573 representing an increase of 751 fine ounces or 1.1 per cent. compared with May, 1948, and a decrease of 65,841 fine ounces or 48.3 per cent. compared with May, 1939. Output during the five months ended May, 1949 was 344,649 fine ounces representing an increase of 22,500 ounces or 7.0 per cent. on output for the same period of 1948.

The following table shows the quantity and value of gold produced in each of the main gold-producing States and in Australia as a whole during the months of May, 1948 and 1949 and the years ended June, 1939 and 1948.

TABLE I : PRODUCTION OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA.

State	1938-39		1947-48		May, 1948		May, 1949 (a)	
	Pro- duction in fine ounces	Value £A.	Pro- duction in fine ounces	Value £A.	Pro- duction in fine ounces	Value £A.	Pro- duction in fine ounces	Value £A.
N.S.W.	88,488	801,630	50,599	544,573	3,808	40,984	7,169	77,156
Vic.	148,475	1,347,063	82,146	884,097	5,517	59,377	5,616	60,442
Q'ld.	153,328	1,389,027	62,544	673,129	7,432	79,987	6,708	72,195
W.A.	1,181,478	10,703,234	680,344	7,322,204	49,602	533,841	48,247	519,258
Other States	38,153	345,635	29,829	321,036	3,373	36,302	2,743	29,522
Total:	1,609,922	14,584,589	905,462	9,745,039	69,732	750,491	70,483	758,573

(a) Subject to revision.

In the next table, details of the production of gold are shown by months for the years 1944 to 1948 and 1949 (to May) in comparison with 1939, during which year the quantity produced was the highest since 1916, when output was 1,665,816 fine ounces.

TABLE II : MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA.
(Fine ounces)

Month	1939	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949(a)
January	118,970	49,415	52,037	53,004	77,223	69,559	69,106
February	117,237	49,210	50,162	50,932	67,605	55,607	67,282
March	130,830	56,468	55,848	56,360	70,620	64,764	68,506
April	126,294	42,048	49,410	57,029	66,871	62,487	69,272
May	136,324	53,944	48,859	61,784	72,399	69,732	70,483
Total for 5 months	629,655	251,085	256,316	279,109	354,718	322,149	344,649
June	137,402	62,180	53,264	62,272	80,889	81,266	
Total for 6 months	767,057	313,265	309,580	341,381	435,607	403,415	
July	129,710	52,629	55,993	66,984	114,398	108,329	
August	142,680	75,817	75,347	109,430	77,208	75,758	
September	179,511	55,483	49,543	74,749	77,058	71,068	
October	129,310	52,436	51,984	73,028	77,731	74,113	
November	13,338	50,533	58,551	74,169	75,409	78,191	
December	154,091	56,704	55,815	82,739	80,243	80,223	
Total for 6 months	878,640	343,602	347,633	483,099	502,047	487,682	
Total for 12 months	1,645,697	656,867	657,213	824,400	937,654	891,097	

(a) Subject to revision.

PRICE OF GOLD IN LONDON AND AUSTRALIA.

Prices of gold per fine ounce in London and in Australia from 1939 onwards are shown below.

TABLE III : PRICE OF GOLD : LONDON AND AUSTRALIA

Period	Average Price per fine ounce		Period	Average price per fine ounce	
	London	Australia (a)		London	Australia (a)
	£s. s. d.	£A. s. d.		£s. s. d.	£A. s. d.
1939	7.12. 4	9.14. 4	1943	8. 8. 0	10. 9. 0
1940	8. 8. 0	10.13. 1	1944	8. 8. 0	10.10. 2
1941	8. 8. 0	10.13. 8	1945	8.10. 7	10.14. 0
1942	8. 8. 0	10. 9. 1	Jan. 1946 to May, 1949	8.12. 3	10.15. 3

(a) Price paid by Australian Mints.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AND CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD.

The following tables show particulars of the imports and exports of gold during the months of May, 1948 and 1949, and of changes in stocks of gold during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 and the months of May, 1948 and 1949.

TABLE IV : IMPORTS OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA.

Country of Origin	May, 1948		May, 1949	
	Fine Oz.	£A.f.o.b.	Fine Oz.	£A.f.o.b.
GOLD - BULLION (BAR, DUST, INGOT, SHEET, ETC.)				
Australian Territories - New Guinea	7,361	79,225	6,716	93,614
New Zealand	4,274	46,000	82	882
Importing States -				
New South Wales	11,100	119,467	8,798	94,696
Victoria	535	5,758	-	-
TOTAL:	11,635	125,225	8,798	94,696

IMPORTS OF GOLD SPECIE AND GOLD CONTAINED IN MATTE - NIL.EXPORTS OF GOLD - NIL.TABLE V : CHANGE IN STOCKS OF GOLD PHYSICALLY HELD IN AUSTRALIA.

Particulars	1946-47	1947-48	MAY	
			1948	1949
	£A.f.o.b.	£A.f.o.b.	£A.f.o.b.	£A.f.o.b.
Exports of Gold	1,345	3,831,455	-	-
Gold content of ores, concentrates, etc., exported	57,203	126,111	11	1,022
Total exports of gold in all forms	58,548	3,957,566	11	1,022
Imports of gold	1,122,576	1,583,994	125,225	94,696
Net imports of gold	1,064,028	1,237,372	125,214	93,674
Production of gold in all forms	9,887,577	9,745,039	750,491	6,758,573
addition to stocks of gold				
physically held in Australia	10,951,605	7,371,467	875,705	6,852,247

(a) Net Exports. (b) Subject to revision.

ROLAND WILSON
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

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