

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA

MONTH OF MAY 1966

PRODUCTION

Mine production. - The mine production of gold (i.e. the gold content of minerals produced) in Australia during May 1966 was 81,270 fine ounces. This was 11,097 fine ounces more than production during the same month of 1965 (70,173 fine ounces).

Of the total output of 81,270 fine ounces, Western Australia produced 53,964 fine ounces (66.4 per cent.), Queensland 15,210 fine ounces (18.7 per cent.), the Northern Territory 6,205 fine ounces (7.6 per cent.) and the other States the remaining 5,891 fine ounces (7.3 per cent.).

Refinery production. - Refinery production of newly-won gold of Australian origin during the month of May 1966 was 55,713 fine ounces, a decrease of 10.2 per cent. compared with production during the corresponding month of 1965 (62,022 fine ounces).

In addition, 13,082 fine ounces of gold were obtained from domestic scrap and from materials of overseas origin, resulting in a total production of refined gold during May 1966 of 68,795 fine ounces, a decrease of 11.1 per cent. compared with total production during the corresponding month of 1965 (77,379 fine ounces).

Further details relating to gold production in May 1966 and earlier periods are set out in Tables 1 to 4.

TABLE 1. - MINE PRODUCTION OF GOLD (a)

(fine ounces)

State or Territory	Annual totals		Cumulative totals (b)		Monthly totals 1966 (b)		
	1964	1965 (b)	Jan.-May		March	April	May
			1965	1966			
New South Wales	10,569	9,825	3,826	3,435	877	720	789
Victoria	21,284	18,110	8,166	9,786	3,220	2,464	2,002
Queensland	100,937	75,220	37,991	57,599	11,423	10,856	15,210
South Australia	17	3	..	..	..	..	..
Western Australia	715,481	656,357	271,889	256,709	47,351	55,652	53,964
Tasmania	34,381	32,787	13,262	14,100	2,900	2,700	3,100
Northern Territory	81,165	84,676	33,585	34,913	7,961	6,250	6,205
AUSTRALIA	963,834	876,978	368,719	376,542	73,732	78,642	81,270

(a) Gold content of minerals originating in each State and the Northern Territory. There is no production in the Australian Capital Territory. (b) Subject to revision.

TABLE 2. - GOLD CONTENT OF MINERALS PRODUCED (a)

(fine ounces)

Mineral in which contained	Annual totals		Cumulative totals (b)		Monthly totals 1966 (b)		
	1964	1965 (b)	Jan.-May		March	April	May
			1965	1966			
Copper concentrate	116,008	90,396	43,509	66,878	14,416	12,181	16,414
Copper ore	122	138	34	1	1	..	..
Copper precipitate	338	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gold bullion (c)	811,003	752,432	311,505	296,064	56,346	63,746	61,776
Lead concentrate	12,395	11,250	4,620	4,187	1,033	913	962
Lead-copper concentrate	19,271	18,724	7,338	7,900	1,600	1,500	1,800
Zinc concentrate	4,697	4,038	1,713	1,512	336	302	318
TOTAL	963,834	876,978	368,719	376,542	73,732	78,642	81,270

(a) As despatched from mines or associated treatment plants (including gold batteries). (b) Subject to revision. (c) Retorted gold, alluvial gold, etc.

TABLE 3. - REFINERY PRODUCTION OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Annual totals		Cumulative totals		Monthly totals 1966		
	1964	1965	Jan.-May		March	April	May
			1965	1966			
QUANTITY (fine ounces)							
Australian origin -							
Newly-won gold	892,726	820,491	375,258	331,621	92,226	54,212	55,713
From scrap	19,282	24,449	7,295	8,752	3,177	1,508	1,367
Overseas origin -							
Newly-won gold	140,557	148,240	57,104	54,536	10,885	10,033	11,715
From scrap	901	194	1	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	1,053,466	993,374	439,658	394,909	106,288	65,753	68,795
VALUE (\$'000) (a)							
Newly-won gold of							
Australian origin	27,995	25,769	11,783	10,414	2,899	1,706	1,749

(a) Based on the price fixed by the Reserve Bank. Includes allowance for premiums on sales of gold overseas and for industrial purposes in Australia. Excludes subsidy.

TABLE 4. - MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF NEWLY-WON GOLD : AUSTRALIA
(fine ounces)

Period	Mine production (a)			Refinery production (b)		
	1964	1965 (c)	1966 (c)	1964	1965	1966
January	85,989	83,702	72,984	67,703	108,601	98,882
February	71,889	70,408	69,914	105,564	69,280	30,588
March	74,537	73,134	73,732	68,181	67,320	92,226
April	74,897	71,302	78,642	68,287	68,035	54,212
May	76,343	70,173	81,270	71,784	62,022	55,713
5 months ended May	383,655	368,719	376,542	381,519	375,258	331,621
June	85,949	83,831		77,440	62,152	
Year ended June	981,076	946,780		911,321	871,177	
July	85,092	68,042		71,908	66,467	
August	88,368	74,594		68,083	72,972	
September	71,698	65,790		85,221	66,041	
October	81,060	75,373		73,968	58,397	
November	84,714	65,486		61,352	60,999	
December	83,298	75,143		73,235	58,205	
Year ended December	963,834	876,978		892,726	820,491	

(a) Gold content of minerals produced in Australia. (b) Newly-won gold of Australian origin. (c) Subject to revision.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD

Tables 5 and 6 show particulars of the imports and exports of gold for the month of May 1966 and earlier periods.

TABLE 5. - IMPORTS OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA
(fine ounces)

(fine ounces)

Particulars	Annual totals		Cumulative totals		Monthly totals 1966 (b)		
	1964	1965	Jan.-May		March	April	May
			1965	1966 (b)			
<u>Gold in unrefined bullion -</u>							
Country of origin -							
Fiji	98,699	103,447	37,092	46,633	7,444	9,890	8,919
Papua and New Guinea	38,102	31,203	7,431	17,780	2,743	3,679	4,876
New Zealand	6,118	2,446	1,489	68	68	..	..
France	..	..	..	240	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	209	37	8	..	..	..	..
Hong Kong	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	..	10	10	..	..	..	..
<u>Total gold in unrefined bullion</u>	143,144	137,143	46,030	64,721	10,255	13,569	13,795
<u>Refined forms</u>	1,037	2,186	177	1,567	202	197	243
<u>Gold in matte</u>	..	..	..	117	..	..	117
<u>TOTAL IMPORTS</u>	144,181	139,329	46,207	66,405	10,457	13,766	14,155
<u>Importing State -</u>							
New South Wales	142,327	136,299	45,954	64,789	10,304	13,619	13,925
Victoria	1,257	19	19	240	..	..	..
Western Australia	597	3,011	234	1,376	153	147	230

(a) Excludes gold imported from the United Kingdom.

(a) Excludes specie, leaf and foil and gold imported in some minor minerals. (b) Subject to revision.

TABLE 6. - EXPORTS OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA
(fine ounces)

Particulars	Annual totals		Cumulative totals		Monthly totals 1966 (b)		
	1964	1965	Jan.-May		March	April	May
			1965	1966 (b)			
<u>Gold in ores, concentrates, etc. -</u>							
Country of consignment -							
United States of America	24,546	28,403	13,191	8,539	1,801	2,034	1,537
Japan	22,815	19,251	8,132	9,679	..	..	5,085
United Kingdom	1,230	..	..	1,908	..	..	1,908
Federal Republic of Germany	1,174	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belgium-Luxembourg	83	165	152	..	..	..	..
<u>Total gold in ores, concentrates, etc.</u>	49,848	47,819	21,475	20,126	1,801	2,034	8,530
<u>Gold in unrefined bullion</u>	719	1	..	..	..	..	..
<u>Refined forms -</u>							
Country of consignment -							
Hong Kong	417,425	736,408	288,147	288,583	96,097	64,216	64,094
New Zealand	9,325	8,218	2,640	2,681	414	879	420
United Kingdom	..	232	..	168	144	24	..
United States of America	300	150	..	150	..	..	..
Fiji	268	117	60	30	..	15	15
Canada	..	..	..	9	..	..	9
<u>Total refined forms</u>	427,318	745,125	290,847	291,621	96,655	65,134	64,538
<u>TOTAL EXPORTS</u>	477,885	792,945	312,322	311,747	98,456	67,168	73,068
Exporting State -							
New South Wales	430,185	744,427	290,852	290,980	96,506	65,110	64,538
Victoria	256	704	..	641	149	24	..
South Australia	14,896	19,411	8,279	10,787	..	..	6,993
Western Australia	8,002	..	..	800	..	..	..
Tasmania	24,546	28,403	13,191	8,539	1,801	2,034	1,537

(a) Excludes specie, leaf and foil. (b) Subject to revision.

CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Table 7 shows details of stocks of gold held in Australia during May 1966 and earlier periods.

TABLE 7. - CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Annual totals		Cumulative totals (a)		Monthly totals 1966 (a)		
	1964	1965 (a)	Jan.-May		March	April	May
			1965	1966			
GOLD OTHER THAN SPECIE (fine ounces)							
SUPPLIES -							
Mine production (b)	963,834	876,978	368,719	376,542	73,732	78,642	81,270
Imports (c)	144,181	139,329	46,207	66,405	10,457	13,766	14,155
<u>TOTAL SUPPLIES</u>	1,108,015	1,016,307	414,926	442,947	84,189	92,408	95,425
DISPOSALS -							
Exports (d)	477,885	792,945	312,322	311,747	98,456	67,168	73,068
Net industrial consumption	77,580	94,611	34,900	33,705	9,010	7,059	6,886
<u>TOTAL DISPOSALS</u>	555,465	887,556	347,222	345,452	107,466	74,227	79,954
<u>Increase in stocks held in Australia (e)</u>	552,550	128,751	67,704	97,495	23,277	18,181	15,471
GOLD SPECIE (\$A)							
<u>Net surplus of imports</u>	35,766	65,392	43,478	13,892	3,722	2,550	3,122

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Gold content of minerals produced in Australia. (c) See table 5. (d) See table 6. (e) Includes changes in holdings in Australia by official and banking institutions both on their own behalf and that of non-residents, together with the gold content of changes in stocks of minerals awaiting refining.

PRICES OF GOLD IN AUSTRALIA, IN LONDON AND OVERSEA PREMIUM MARKETS

(i) Australia. Since 1st May, 1954, the official price of gold in Australia has been fixed at \$31.25 per fine ounce. This price represents the "parity" value of Australian currency established by the International Monetary Agreement Act 1947.

(ii) London and oversea premium markets. Table 8 shows details of the price of gold in London and the quantity, value and average price of Australian gold sold on oversea premium markets during May 1966, and earlier periods. Only part of the total Australian production of gold is sold overseas and the series set out in Table 8 is, therefore, not indicative of the average return of gold producers for all gold produced.

Further particulars of the sales of gold on oversea premium markets and the conditions applying to these sales were contained in the December 1965 issue of this bulletin.

TABLE 8. - PRICE OF GOLD : LONDON AND OVERSEA PREMIUM MARKETS

Period	London £Stg.s.d. per f. oz.	Australian gold sold on oversea premium markets		
		Quantity f. oz.	Value \$A	Average price \$A per f. oz.
Year : 1963	12.10. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	512,805	16,056,454	31.311
1964	12.11. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	448,310	14,077,238	31.401
1965	12.11. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	736,432	23,155,106	31.442
1965 : May	12.11. 6	63,943	2,010,186	31.437
June	12.11. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	64,034	2,012,106	31.422
July	12.11. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	32,006	1,006,296	31.441
August	12.11. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	96,022	3,020,676	31.458
September	12.11. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	64,059	2,019,574	31.527
October	12.10. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	96,092	3,016,968	31.397
November	12.10. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	32,035	1,003,376	31.321
December	12.10. 9	64,131	2,008,244	31.315
1966 : January	12.10. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	64,046	2,006,053	31.322
February	12.10. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	64,077	2,006,190	31.309
March	12.11. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	96,115	3,013,813	31.356
April	12.11. 6	32,049	1,007,762	31.444
May	12.11. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	96,043	3,017,074	31.414

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE GOLD-MINING INDUSTRY

(i) Gold subsidy. Payments under the Gold-Mining Industry Assistance Act 1954-1965 during 1965 totalled \$1,874,865. Payments during May 1966 amounted to \$359,689 bringing total payments during 1966 to \$1,216,306. Monthly payments do not relate to production during the same month or in any given period. The Gold-Mining Industry Assistance Act 1954-1962 was amended in June 1965 by the passing of the Gold-Mining Industry Assistance Act 1965 which liberalizes the conditions under which payments will be made. The new provisions took effect from 1st July 1965.

(ii) Development assistance. Payments under the Gold Mines Development Assistance Act 1962 during 1965 totalled \$110,104 bringing the total payment since the introduction of the Act to \$508,666. A brief comment on this Act was contained in the December 1965 issue of this bulletin. This Act expired on 30th June 1965 and was not renewed.

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CANBERRA, A.C.T.

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NOTE. - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 41971, Extension 60, or in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.