

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA

MONTH OF MARCH, 1960

PRODUCTION

Mine Production : The mine production of gold (i.e. the gold content of minerals produced) in Australia during March, 1960, was 92,822 fine ounces. This was 12,589 fine ounces more than production during February, 1960, and 2,024 fine ounces more than the average monthly production for the year ended December, 1959. Of the total output of 92,822 fine ounces for March, 1960, Western Australia produced 74,303 fine ounces or 80.0 per cent., Queensland 6,631 fine ounces or 7.2 per cent., the Northern Territory 5,412 fine ounces or 5.8 per cent., and other States the remaining 6,476 fine ounces or 7.0 per cent.

Refinery Production : Refinery production of newly-won gold of Australian origin in March, 1960, was 76,656 fine ounces (valued at £1,198,029), 5,932 fine ounces less than the preceding month, February, 1960, (82,588 fine ounces valued at £1,290,706) and 12,271 fine ounces less than average monthly production for 1959, (88,927 fine ounces valued at £1,389,761).

Total production of refined gold during March, 1960, was 92,502 fine ounces comprising, in addition to the 76,656 fine ounces of newly-won gold of Australian origin, 12,566 fine ounces from imported newly-won minerals and scrap and 3,280 fine ounces recovered from Australian scrap.

Further details relating to gold production during March, 1960, and earlier periods are set out in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

TABLE 1 - MINE PRODUCTION OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA

(Fine Ounces)

State or Territory	Annual Totals		Monthly Averages		Monthly Totals (b)		
	1958	1959(b)	1958	1959(b)	Jan., 1960	Feb., 1960	March, 1960
New South Wales	18,709	13,269	1,559	1,106	509	1,102	1,374
Victoria	41,476	36,084	3,456	3,007	1,571	1,939	3,102
Queensland	70,987	93,136	5,916	7,761	7,511	6,070	6,631
South Australia	48	7	4	1	-	-	-
Western Australia	874,824	861,122	72,902	71,760	62,163	64,323	74,303
Tasmania	21,744	20,751	1,812	1,729	(a)1,900	(a)1,700	(c)2,000
Northern Territory	72,616	65,205	6,051	5,434	5,452	5,099	5,412
AUSTRALIA:	1,100,404	1,089,574	91,700	90,798	79,106	80,233	92,822

(a) Details for States refer to gold content of minerals originating in each State.

(b) Subject to revision. (c) Estimated.

TABLE 2 - REFINERY PRODUCTION OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Annual Totals		Monthly Averages		Monthly Totals		
	1958	1959	1958	1959	January, 1960	February, 1960	March, 1960
QUANTITY (Fine Ounces)							
<u>Australian Origin -</u>							
Newly-won gold	1,069,774	1,067,129	89,148	88,927	78,737	82,588	76,656
From scrap	17,350	20,617	1,446	1,718	1,874	1,447	3,280
<u>Overseas Origin -</u>							
Newly-won gold	136,998	141,624	11,416	11,802	12,154	17,825	12,379
From scrap	888	1,075	74	90	103	18	187
TOTAL:	1,225,010	1,230,445	102,084	102,537	92,868	101,880	92,502

VALUE (£)

Newly-won gold of Australian Origin (a)	16,720,490	16,677,132	1,393,374	1,389,761	1,230,472	1,290,706	1,198,029
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(a) Includes allowance for premiums on sales of gold overseas and for industrial purposes in Australia.

TABLE 3 - MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF NEWLY-WON GOLD : AUSTRALIA

(Fine Ounces)

Period	Mine Production (a)			Refinery Production (b)		
	1958	1959(a)	1960(c)	1958	1959	1960
January	92,392	79,820	79,106	83,032	78,007	78,737
February	84,149	85,405	80,233	88,330	77,902	82,588
March	85,461	93,865	92,822	76,546	77,958	76,656
Total for Three Months:	262,002	259,090	252,161	247,908	233,867	237,981
April	81,670	82,770		80,864	83,951	
May	88,118	82,788		87,150	118,098	
June	95,947	99,568		122,742	97,917	
Year ended June:	1,083,534	1,096,883		1,106,445	1,064,943	
July	107,903	90,280		94,680	91,170	
August	85,269	86,768		76,171	86,781	
September	98,989	93,555		84,321	81,328	
October	92,727	95,133		88,764	93,912	
November	86,987	96,113		99,192	96,118	
December	100,792	103,509		87,982	83,987	
Year ended December:	1,100,404	1,089,574		1,069,774	1,067,129	

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

SUBSIDY PAID TO GOLD PRODUCERS

The Gold Mining Industry Assistance Act, 1954-57, was enacted to assist the gold mining industry in Australia and Papua and New Guinea by the payment of a subsidy to gold producers. Premiums received by producers from the sale of gold overseas by the Gold Producers' Association are offset against subsidy payments. Payments under the Act commenced in March, 1955.

TABLE 4 - NET SUBSIDY PAYMENTS TO GOLD PRODUCERS

(£)

Year	Net Subsidy Payments	Month	Net Subsidy Payments
1957	588,512	1960 - January	24,672
1958	753,528	February	120,004
1959	788,495	March	70,473

PRICES OF GOLD IN AUSTRALIA AND LONDON

Average prices of gold per fine ounce in Australia and London for the years 1955 to 1959, and for the months of January, February and March, 1960 are shown in the following table.

Under existing legislation, all gold produced in Australia is sold to the Commonwealth Bank. Since 1st May, 1954, the official price of gold in Australia has been fixed at £15.12.6 per fine ounce.

In 1951, a decision was made by the Commonwealth Government to permit newly-mined gold to be sold at a premium on overseas markets. The Gold Producers' Association was incorporated in December, 1951, to implement this decision. The maximum quantity of gold the Association may purchase from the Bank for resale on these markets is the amount of new gold delivered to the Bank by members in the previous month, less the quantity required for industrial purposes in Australia. The net proceeds from premium sales are distributed to members in proportion to their production, and the premium prices in the following table represent the average price obtained by the Association. The actual volume of sales has been largely dependent on prices offering and the series is therefore in no way indicative of the average return to gold producers for all gold produced. Sales were last made on overseas premium markets in September, 1959.

TABLE 5 - PRICES OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA AND LONDON

(per Fine Ounce)

Period	At Mints in Australia			Australian Gold sold on Oversea Premium Markets			London		
	£s.	s.	d.	£s.	s.	d.	£Stg.	s.	d.
1955	15.	12.	6	15.	13.	1	12.	10.	11
1956	15.	12.	6	15.	13.	6	12.	10.	2
1957	15.	12.	6	15.	13.	2	12.	10.	3
1958	15.	12.	6	15.	12.	10	12.	9.	9
1959	15.	12.	6	15.	12.	10	12.	9.	10
1960 : January	15.	12.	6	(a)			12.	10.	8
February	15.	12.	6	(a)			12.	10.	4
March	15.	12.	6	(a)			12.	10.	2

(a) No Sales.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD

The two tables which follow show particulars of the imports and exports of gold for the years 1958, 1959 and for the months of January, February and March, 1960.

TABLE 6 - IMPORTS OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA

(Fine Ounces)

Particulars	1958	1959(b)	Jan., 1960(b)	Feb., 1960(b)	March, 1960(b)
<u>Unrefined bullion</u> (gold content)					
Country of origin -					
New Guinea	45,999	44,640	3,806	3,719	3,819
Papua			-	-	63
Fiji	92,925	66,035	3,937	5,460	11,498
New Zealand	21,308	25,960	2,863	3,847	5,045
Solomon Is.	-	43	-	-	-
Total unrefined bullion (gold content)	160,232	136,678	10,606	13,026	20,425
<u>Refined forms</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Gold contained in matte</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Importing States -					
New South Wales	152,636	132,524	8,970	12,711	20,194
Victoria	7,596	4,154	1,636	315	231
<u>TOTAL IMPORTS:</u>	160,232	136,678	10,606	13,026	20,425

(a) Excludes specie, leaf and foil and gold in unrefined forms except the gold content of unrefined gold and silver bullion which is included.

(b) Subject to revision.

TABLE 7 - EXPORTS OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA

(Fine Ounces)

Particulars	1958	1959(b)	Jan., 1960(b)	Feb., 1960(b)	March, 1960(b)
<u>Unrefined bullion (gold content)</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Refined forms</u>					
Country of destination -					
United Kingdom	205	-	-	239,778	-
New Guinea	24	-	-	-	-
Fiji	276	191	21	-	20
Hong Kong	122,520	124,552	-	1,195	-
New Zealand	4,625	3,413	158	200	602
United States of America	900	100	-	-	-
Total refined forms:	128,550	128,256	179	241,173	622
<u>Gold contained in matte</u>	-	-	-	-	-
States of final shipment -					
New South Wales	128,526	128,142	179	1,395	622
Victoria	24	114	-	-	-
Western Australia	-	-	-	239,778	-
<u>TOTAL EXPORTS:</u>	128,550	128,256	179	241,173	622

(a) See note (a) to Table 6. For total quantities of gold exported in ores and concentrates, see Table 8. (b) Subject to revision.

CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD HELD IN AUSTRALIA

The following table shows details of changes in stocks of gold held in Australia during the years 1958, 1959 and the months of January, February and March, 1960.

TABLE 8 - CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Particulars	1958	1959(a)	January, 1960(a)	February, 1960(a)	March, 1960(a)
<u>GOLD (OTHER THAN SPECIE)</u> (Fine Ounces)					
Mine production of gold (b)	1,100,404	1,089,574	79,106	80,233	92,822
Imports of gold (c) (d)	160,232	136,678	10,606	13,026	20,425
Exports of Gold (e)	128,550	128,256	179	241,173	622
Gold content of ores and concentrates exported	22,453	18,031	2,089	3,037	57
Net industrial absorption of gold	37,568	43,001	3,012	4,480	4,521
Changes in stocks of gold held in Australia (e)	(+)1,072,065	(+)1,036,964	(+)84,432	(-)155,431	(+)108,047

GOLD SPECIE
(£A)

Net surplus of imports	(+)	925	(-)	2,983	(+)	69	-	-
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(a) Subject to revision. (b) Gold content of minerals produced in Australia.
 (c) Includes gold contained in matte but excludes gold contained in leaf and foil.
 (d) Excludes gold imported in some minor minerals. (e) Includes gold content of change in stocks of minerals awaiting refining.

S.R. CARVER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN