

EVENING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 20TH APRIL, 1949

MORNING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 21ST APRIL, 1949

GOLD MINING INDUSTRY - AUSTRALIA - JANUARY, 1949

Particulars of the gold mining industry of Australia for the month of January, 1949 have been made available by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. S. R. Carver).

PRODUCTION

Production of gold during January, 1949 was 69,036 fine ounces, valued at £4. 743,001 compared with 69,509 fine ounces in January, 1948 and 118,970 fine ounces in January, 1939.

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 January, 1948 and 1949 and the years ended June, 1939 and 1948.

TABLE I : PRODUCTION OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA

State	1938-39		1947-48 (a)		January 1948 (a)		January 1949 (a)	
	Production in fine ounces	Value £4.	Production in fine ounces	Value £4.	Production in fine ounces	Value £4.	Production in fine ounces	Value £4.
N.S.W.	88,488	801,630	50,599	544,572	3,938	42,383	5,376	57,859
Vic.	148,475	1,345,063	82,146	884,096	3,699	39,810	3,713	39,961
Q'ld.	153,328	1,389,027	62,300	670,504	5,388	57,988	5,837	62,821
W. A.	1,181,478	10,703,234	680,344	7,322,202	54,941	591,303	51,410	553,300
Other States	38,153	345,635	29,829	321,035	1,543	16,606	2,700	29,060
Total	1,609,922	14,584,589	905,218	9,742,409	69,509	748,090	69,036	743,001

(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 January, 1949 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 (a)	1949 (a)
January	118,970	49,415	52,037	53,004	77,223	69,509	69,036
February	117,237	49,210	50,162	50,932	67,605	55,567	
March	130,830	56,468	55,848	56,360	70,620	64,752	
April	126,294	42,048	49,410	57,029	66,871	62,478	
May	136,324	53,944	48,859	61,784	72,399	69,663	
June	137,402	62,180	53,264	62,272	80,889	81,202	
Total for 6 months	767,057	313,265	309,580	341,381	435,607	403,171	
July	129,710	52,629	55,993	66,984	114,398	108,259	
August	142,680	75,817	75,347	109,430	77,208	75,682	
September	179,511	55,483	49,943	74,749	77,058	71,013	
October	129,310	52,436	51,984	73,028	77,731	74,052	
November	143,330	50,533	58,551	74,169	75,409	78,125	
December	154,091	56,704	55,815	82,739	80,243	80,126	
Total for 6 months	878,640	343,602	347,633	483,099	502,047	487,257	
Total for 12 months	1,645,697	656,867	657,213	824,480	937,654	890,428	

(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 London	per fine ounce Australia (a)	Period	Average price London	per fine ounce Australia (a)
	<u>£s. s. d.</u>	<u>£s. s. d.</u>		<u>£s. s. d.</u>	<u>£s. s. d.</u>
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 Jan. 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 January, 1948 and 1949, and of changes in stocks of gold during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 and the months of January, 1948 and 1949.

TABLE IV : IMPORTS OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA

Country of Origin	January 1948		January 1949	
	Fine oz.	£s. s. d.	Fine oz.	£s. s. d.
<u>GOLD - BULLION (BAR, DUST, INGOT, SHEET ETC.)</u>				
Australian Territories -				
New Guinea	6,246	67,226	1,322	14,232
Papua	-	-	249	2,577
New Zealand	3,701	39,033	4,940	53,256
Importing States -				
New South Wales	9,947	107,059	1,063	11,442
Victoria	-	-	5,456	56,723
TOTAL	9,947	107,059	6,519	70,165

Imports of Gold Specie and Gold contained in Mintage - NIL

TABLE V : EXPORTS OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA

Country of Destination	January 1948		January 1949	
	Fine oz.	£s. s. d.	Fine oz.	£s. s. d.
<u>GOLD - BULLION (BAR, DUST, INGOT, SHEET, ETC.)</u>				
New Zealand	38	409	38	409
State of Final Shipment -				
New South Wales	38	409	38	409

Exports of Gold Specie and Gold contained in Mintage - NIL.

TABLE VI : CHANGE IN STOCKS OF GOLD PHYSICALLY HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Particulars	1946-47	1947-48	January (b)	
			1948	1949
	£s. s. d.	£s. s. d.	£s. s. d.	£s. s. d.
Exports of gold	1,345	3,031,455	409	409
Gold content of ores, concentrates etc. exported	57,203	126,111	55,559	6,361
Total exports of gold in all forms	58,548	3,957,566	55,968	6,770
Imports of gold	1,122,576	1,503,994	107,059	70,165
Net imports of gold	1,064,028	(a) 2,373,572	51,091	63,395
Production of gold in all forms	9,007,577	(b) 9,742,409	740,090	743,001
Addition to stocks of gold physically held in Australia	10,951,605	7,368,837	791,181	806,396

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

S. R. Carver

ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

20TH APRIL, 1949