

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 8408.0

NOON 11 DECEMBER 1979

MINERAL EXPLORATION (other than for petroleum) BY PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISES, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1979

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Aub Edwards on Canberra 525657 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616. For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains quarterly statistics of metres drilled and expenditure on mineral exploration (other than for petroleum) in Australia.

Coverage

2. Details of expenditure and metres drilled are collected only from the *principal enterprises* undertaking exploration activity. For any quarter these comprise all governmental authorities engaged in mineral exploration, and those private enterprises whose *annual* expenditure on mineral exploration activity is expected to exceed a certain amount (currently \$130,000).

Definitions

3. *Exploration* consists of the search for, and/or appraisal of, new ore occurrences and known deposits of minerals by geological, geophysical, geochemical and other exploration methods (including drilling). This includes construction of shafts and adits primarily for exploration purposes but excludes mine development activities. Exploration for water is excluded.

4. *Exploration expenditure* includes expenditure on aerial surveys, general surveys, report writing, map preparation and other activities indirectly attributable to exploration.

Classification

5. The data obtained in the survey are classified into the following categories:

- (i) *Private exploration on production leases* relates to exploration carried out on the production lease by privately operated mines currently producing or under development for production of minerals.
- (ii) *Other private exploration* relates to exploration carried out by private enterprises on areas covered by exploration licences, authorities to enter, authorities to prospect, and similar licences and authorities issued by State governments for exploration for minerals. Also included is exploration by private enterprises which is not directly connected with areas under lease, licence, etc.

(iii) *Exploration by government* relates to exploration for minerals carried out by:

- (a) State Mines Departments and business undertakings operated by State and local government authorities.
- (b) Federal Government (Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, and when applicable, the Joint Coal Board and the Atomic Energy Commission.)

Expected expenditure

6. This refers to expected expenditure on mineral exploration as reported by business and government enterprises during the first two months of the half year for which data are shown. Subsequent events (e.g. discoveries of new orebodies, unexpected weather conditions, government policy changes, unforeseen changes in economic conditions) may cause actual expenditures to differ from those previously expected.

Seasonal adjustment

7. This publication includes seasonally adjusted expenditure statistics. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these and other series are given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (1308.0).

Related publications

8. Detailed information on mineral exploration, including petroleum exploration on an annual basis is shown in *Mineral Exploration* (8407.0). Quarterly statistics of petroleum exploration in Australia are available in *Petroleum Exploration* (8409.0).

9. All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- r figure or series revised since previous issue
.. not applicable

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

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Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. MINERAL EXPLORATION: EXPENDITURE BY PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISES - ACTUAL AND EXPECTED (\$ million)

Period	Private expenditure			Government expenditure	Total expenditure	Seasonally adjusted
	On production leases	On other areas	Total private			
Actual expenditure						
Quarter ended -						
1976-77						
June	5.8	27.3	33.1	4.8	37.9	38.0
1977-78 -						
September	5.1	33.3	38.4	4.2	42.6	41.3
December	5.4	38.4	43.8	4.4	48.2	41.5
March	5.1	24.4	29.5	4.1	33.6	41.4
June	5.6	32.6	38.2	4.8	43.0	43.2
1978-79						
September	15.1	34.5	49.6	4.4	54.1	42.7
December	14.8	39.4	54.2	4.8	59.0	42.2
March	4.6	30.1	34.7	4.8	39.5	48.9
June	16.6	40.8	57.4	5.1	62.5	52.9
1979-80						
September	6.2	46.5	52.6	5.0	57.7	55.8
Expected expenditure						
Six months ended -						
June 1978	..	..	68.5	9.0	77.5	..
December 1978	..	..	70.8	10.5	81.3	..
June 1979	..	..	69.9	8.8	78.9	..
December 1979	..	..	100.4	10.3	110.7	..

TABLE 2. MINERAL EXPLORATION: ANNUAL EXPENDITURE BY ALL ENTERPRISES (a) (\$ million)

Period	Private expenditure			Government expenditure	Total expenditure
	On production leases	On other areas	Total private		
1975-76	15.1	84.9	100.0	17.2	117.1
1976-77	23.9	110.0	134.0	15.5	149.5
1977-78	22.8	135.6	158.4	17.9	176.3

(a) The statistics in this table are derived from the Annual Census of Mineral Exploration Expenditure in Australia, in which data are obtained from all companies or organisations engaged in exploration

TABLE 3. MINERAL EXPLORATION : METRES DRILLED BY PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISES
(⁰000 metres)

Period	Private exploration			Government exploration	Total drilling
	On production leases	On other areas	Total private		
Quarter ended -					
1976-77 -					
June	99.4	349.1	448.6	28.3	476.9
1977-78 -					
September	98.2	513.4	611.6	68.1	679.6
December	92.7	480.6	573.3	45.4	618.7
March	59.6	277.4	336.9	43.3	380.2
June	89.1	430.0	519.1	43.1	562.1
1978-79					
September	134.3	436.9	571.2	68.4	639.6
December	117.5	452.4	569.8	74.0	643.8
March	96.6	257.8	354.4	26.4	380.7
June	149.0	454.2	603.2	29.6	632.7
1979-80					
September	115.5	563.7	679.2	40.3	719.5

TABLE 4. MINERAL EXPLORATION : METRES DRILLED BY ALL ENTERPRISES (a)
(⁰000 metres)

Period	Private exploration			Government exploration	Total drilling
	On production leases	On other areas	Total private		
1975-76	572	1,438	2,010	109	2,119
1976-77	461	1,372	1,834	129	1,963
1977-78	410	1,919	2,329	202	2,531

(a) The statistics in this table are derived from the Annual Census of Mineral Exploration Expenditure in Australia, in which data are obtained from all companies or organisations engaged in exploration.