

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION
SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1977

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INQUIRIES

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This bulletin contains quarterly statistics of metres drilled and expenditure on petroleum exploration in Australia.

Sources of data

2. Details of quarterly expenditure are obtained directly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Data in Tables 2 and 3 are provided by the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics. As a consequence, because of differences in definition, details of expenditure shown in Tables 1 and 2 do not necessarily agree.

Scope

3. Details of expenditure and metres drilled relate to all private and public undertakings known to be engaged in petroleum exploration activity.

Definitions

4. *Exploration* consists of the search for undiscovered oil or gas, and/or appraisal intended to greatly extend the limits of a known oil or gas reservoir by geological, geophysical, geochemical and other exploration methods including drilling. Activity of a developmental or production nature is excluded.

5. *Exploration expenditure* excludes payments made under the Petroleum Search Subsidy Act 1959. Details of these payments are shown in footnote (a), Table 1.

Classification

6. The data obtained are classified into the following categories:

- (i) *Drilling/Other*, where *drilling* expenditure includes cost of access (roads, vessel hire, etc.) to the drilling site and site preparation, etc., and *other* expenditure includes costs of surveys, report writing, map preparation and all other activities attributable to exploration.
- (ii) *Offshore/Onshore* where offshore includes all operations in a marine area under the Petroleum

(Submerged Lands) Act 1967 or under any Acts administered by State governments.

- (iii) *Private/Government* where government relates to exploration for petroleum carried out by: State Mines Departments, public enterprises operated by State and local government authorities, the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, and when applicable the Department of Administrative Services, the Petroleum and Minerals Authority and the Division of National Mapping.

Expected expenditure

7. This refers to exploration expenditure expectations as reported at the beginning of each half year. Subsequent events (e.g. discoveries of new reservoirs, unexpected weather conditions, unforeseen changes in economic conditions) may cause actual expenditures to differ from those previously expected.

Seasonal adjustment

8. Seasonally adjusted statistics are NOT shown in this bulletin. When a sufficient number of observations to estimate the seasonal variations (if any) are available seasonally adjusted series may be included. In the meantime, the user of these statistics is cautioned against making quarter to quarter comparisons of the statistics without realising that such comparisons may be affected by seasonality in the series.

Rounding

9. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

Related publications

10. Detailed information on petroleum exploration on an annual basis is included in *Mineral Exploration, 1975-76* (Catalogue No. 8407.0. Previously Ref. No. 10.41). Quarterly statistics of mineral exploration (excluding petroleum) in Australia are available in *Mineral Exploration* (other than for petroleum), (Catalogue No. 8408.0. Previously Ref. No. 10.75). All statistical publications produced by the Canberra and State Offices of ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (Catalogue No. 1101.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.8), which is available free of charge from any of these Offices.

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Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. EXPENDITURE (a) ON PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA -- ACTUAL AND EXPECTED
(\$ million)

Period	Private			Total	Government			Total Expenditure
	Onshore(b)	Offshore			Onshore(b)	Offshore	Total	
		Drilling	Other					
Actual expenditure								
Quarter ended —								
1975								
March	2.5	10.8	3.9	17.2	0.7	0.2	0.9	18.1
June	4.1	10.0	2.6	16.6	0.9	3.3	1.2	17.8
September	4.6	6.9	2.6	14.0	0.9	0.3	1.2	15.3
December	4.8	9.1	2.2	16.2	0.8	0.5	1.3	17.5
1976								
March	3.9	7.9		11.8	0.8	0.3	1.1	13.0
June	4.8	7.5		12.3	0.9	0.3	1.2	13.6
September	5.2	9.8		15.1	0.9	0.3	1.2	16.2
December	5.5	9.7		15.1	0.9	0.4	1.2	16.4
1977								
March	r3.9	13.6		r17.5	0.8	0.3	1.0	r18.5
June	3.5	16.4		19.9	0.9	0.3	1.2	r21.2
September	6.1	12.9	3.8	22.8	0.9	0.4	1.3	24.1
Expected expenditure (c)								
Six months ended —								
June 1976				27.1			2.1	29.2
December 1976				21.8			2.3	24.0
June 1977				43.5			2.2	45.6
December 1977				46.9			2.2	49.2

(a) Expenditure made under the *Petroleum Search Subsidy Act 1959* are excluded; total payments under the Act for the quarters included above were: March 1975 -- \$1.0m; June 1975 -- \$1.9m; September 1975 -- \$0.1m. (b) Includes "Drilling" and "Other". (c) Details are collected only in respect of total expected expenditure. r -- revised.

TABLE 2. ANNUAL EXPENDITURE (a) ON PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA
(Source: Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics)
(\$ million)

Year	Private Onshore			Private Offshore			Total Private	Govern- ment (b)	Total Expenditure
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total			
1972	11.4	8.3	19.8	61.1	16.6	77.7	97.5	4.5	102.0
1973	8.9	6.0	14.9	57.0	13.7	70.7	85.6	4.9	90.5
1974	5.3	6.2	11.5	65.0	6.9	71.9	83.4	4.5	87.9
1975	8.8	4.5	13.3	38.1	3.5	41.6	54.9	4.9	59.8
1976	12.2	7.8	20.0	20.6	8.4	29.0	49.0	5.1	54.1

(a) Expenditures made under the *Petroleum Search Subsidy Act 1959* are excluded. (b) Separate details for onshore/offshore and drilling/other are not available for government expenditure. Minor government expenditure in Papua New Guinea is included prior to 1973.

TABLE 3. PRIVATE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION -- METRES DRILLED, AUSTRALIA
(Source: Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics)
('000 metres)

Year	Onshore	Offshore	Total metres Drilled
1972	107.0	117.4	224.4
1973	52.7	87.9	140.5
1974	30.5	87.9	140.5
1975	12.7	35.6	48.2
1976	32.0	17.6	49.6
Quarter ended --			
1975			
March	..	15.5	15.5
June	1.6	6.7	8.3
September	6.6	6.7	13.3
December	4.5	6.7	11.3
1976			
March	2.9	5.0	7.8
June	r8.2	r2.4	r10.6
September	7.6	r2.7	r10.3
December	11.1	r5.0	r16.1
1977			
March	4.3	8.0	12.3
June	2.4	11.5	13.9
September (p)	8.1	9.3	17.4

r -- revised
p -- preliminary