

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA

MONTH OF JULY, 1960

PRODUCTION

Mine Production: The mine production of gold (i.e. the gold content of minerals produced) in Australia during July, 1960, was 90,263 fine ounces. This was 5,896 fine ounces less than production during June, 1960, and 163 fine ounces less than the average monthly production for the year ended December, 1959 (90,426 fine ounces). Of the total output of 90,263 fine ounces for July, 1960, Western Australia produced 73,637 fine ounces or 81.6 per cent., Queensland 6,737 fine ounces or 7.5 per cent., the Northern Territory 5,151 fine ounces or 5.7 per cent., and other States the remaining 4,738 fine ounces or 5.2 per cent.

For the seven months ended July, 1960, the mine production of gold was 613,726 fine ounces. This was 559 fine ounces less than production in the same period of 1959.

Refinery Production: Total production of refined gold during July, 1960 was 94,136 fine ounces comprising, 76,841 fine ounces of newly-won gold of Australian origin, 14,572 fine ounces from imported newly-won minerals and scrap and 2,723 fine ounces recovered from Australian scrap.

Refinery production of newly-won gold of Australian origin in the seven months ended July, 1960, was 616,593 fine ounces (valued at £9,636,066), 8,410 fine ounces less than in the corresponding seven months of 1959 (625,003 fine ounces valued at £9,767,177).

Further details relating to gold production during July, 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		Cumulative Totals January - July (b)		Monthly Totals (b)		
	1958	1959 (b)	1959	1960	May, 1960	June, 1960	July, 1960
New South Wales	18,709	13,275	7,987	7,530	1,253	1,275	910
Victoria	41,476	34,662	21,728	17,271	2,122	2,328	2,028
Queensland	74,568	92,056	53,812	46,784	6,535	6,361	6,737
South Australia	48	16	7	-	-	-	-
Western Australia	874,819	860,969	484,786	490,137	62,886	78,696	73,637
Tasmania	21,744	21,000	11,121	12,495	(c)2,100	(c)2,000	(c)1,800
Northern Territory	72,616	63,141	34,844	39,509	5,658	5,499	5,151
AUSTRALIA:	1,103,980	1,085,119	614,285	613,726	80,554	96,159	90,263

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

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

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TABLE 2 - REFINERY PRODUCTION OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January - July		Monthly Totals		
	1958	1959	1959	1960	May, 1960	June, 1960	July, 1960
QUANTITY (Fine Ounces)							
<u>Australian Origin -</u>							
Newly-won gold	1,069,774	1,067,129	625,003	616,593	130,839	84,484	76,841
From scrap	17,350	20,617	11,803	14,030	1,622	1,834	2,723
<u>Overseas Origin -</u>							
Newly-won gold	136,998	141,624	85,027	90,688	14,474	13,574	14,425
From scrap	888	1,075	571	611	39	80	147
TOTAL:	1,225,010	1,230,445	722,404	721,922	146,974	99,972	94,136

VALUE (£)

Newly-won gold of Australian Origin (a)	16,720,490	16,677,132	9,767,177	9,636,066	2,044,689	1,320,312	1,200,893
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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 (c)	1960 (c)	1958	1959	1960
January	92,392	79,820	79,310	83,032	78,007	78,737
February	84,149	85,404	80,567	88,330	77,902	82,588
March	85,461	93,865	93,433	76,546	77,958	76,656
April	81,670	82,708	93,440	80,864	83,951	86,448
May	88,118	82,725	80,554	87,150	118,098	130,839
June	95,947	99,483	96,159	122,742	97,917	84,484
Year ended June:	1,083,534	1,100,248	1,083,413	1,106,445	1,064,943	1,073,048
July	107,903	90,280	90,263	94,680	91,170	76,841
Total for Seven Months:	635,640	614,285	613,726	633,344	625,003	616,593
August	85,269	86,768		76,171	86,781	
September	98,989	93,551		84,321	81,328	
October	94,517	93,627		88,764	93,912	
November	88,778	95,025		99,192	96,118	
December	100,787	101,848		87,982	83,987	
Year ended December:	1,103,980	1,085,104		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

(£)

Period	Net Subsidy Payments	Month	Net Subsidy Payments
Year: 1958	753,528	1960: April	39,030
1959	788,495	May	1,647
Jan. - July: 1959	398,112	June	170,621
1960	429,662	July	3,215

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 May, June and July, 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 volume of sales has been largely dependent on the prices offering on these markets and in years when there was a substantial premium over the Australian fixed price, large quantities were sold. Towards the end of 1953, however, the price of gold on overseas premium markets fell sharply and subsequent sales have been made at prices very little above the official price. Sales were last made in September, 1959. Further particulars of the sales of gold on overseas premium markets are set out in the last annual issue of this Statistical Bulletin, i.e. for the Year ended December, 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 : May	15.	12.	6	(a)			12.	10.	2
June	15.	12.	6	(a)			12.	10.	5
July	15.	12.	6	(a)			12.	10.	0

(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, the periods January to July, 1959 and 1960, and the months of May, June and July, 1960.

TABLE 6 - IMPORTS OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA

(Fine Ounces)

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January - July (b)		Monthly Totals (b)		
	1958	1959 (b)	1959	1960	May, 1960	June, 1960	July, 1960
<u>Unrefined bullion</u> (gold content)							
Country of origin -							
New Guinea	45,999	44,640	25,187	23,049	8,072	3,390	-
Papua	-	-	-	40	40	-	-
Fiji	92,925	66,035	39,997	40,191	14,652	4,644	-
New Zealand	21,308	25,960	12,692	16,996	3,934	1,229	16
Solomon Is.	-	43	24	18	-	-	-
Total (gold content)	160,232	136,678	77,900	80,294	26,698	9,263	16
<u>Refined forms</u>	-	-	-	4	3	-	-
<u>Gold contained in matte</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Importing States -							
New South Wales	152,636	132,524	74,762	77,037	26,483	8,561	16
Victoria	7,596	4,154	3,138	3,261	218	702	-
TOTAL IMPORTS:	160,232	136,678	77,900	80,298	26,701	9,263	16

(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	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January - July (b)		Monthly Totals (b)		
	1958	1959 (b)	1959	1960	May, 1960	June, 1960	July, 1960
<u>Unrefined bullion (c)</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Refined forms</u>							
Country of destination -							
United Kingdom	205	-	-	599,931	359,793	-	-
New Guinea	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiji	276	191	55	143	33	29	20
Hong Kong	122,520	124,552	77,221	1,195	-	100	-
New Zealand	4,625	3,413	1,540	2,791	405	410	416
United States of America	900	100	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total refined forms:</u>	128,550	128,256	78,816	604,060	360,231	539	436
<u>Gold contained in matte</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
States of final shipment -							
New South Wales	128,526	128,142	78,816	4,489	438	539	436
Victoria	24	114	-	-	-	-	-
Western Australia	-	-	-	599,571	359,793	-	-
<u>TOTAL EXPORTS:</u>	128,550	128,256	78,816	604,060	360,231	539	436

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

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 and 1959, the periods January to July, 1959 and 1960, and the months of May, June and July, 1960.

TABLE 8 - CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January - July (a)		Monthly Totals (a)		
	1958	1959 (a)	1959	1960	May, 1960	June, 1960	July, 1960
<u>GOLD (OTHER THAN SPECIE)</u> (Fine Ounces)							
Mine production (b)	1,103,980	1,085,104	614,285	613,726	80,554	96,159	90,263
Imports (c) (d)	160,232	136,678	77,900	80,298	26,701	9,263	16
Exports (c)	128,550	128,256	78,816	604,060	360,231	539	436
Gold content of ores and concentrates exported	22,453	18,031	7,469	13,869	105	4,795	2,137
Net industrial absorption	37,568	43,001	24,010	29,067	5,291	4,127	4,057
Changes in stocks held in Australia (e)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)
	1,075,641	1,032,494	581,890	47,028	258,372	95,961	83,649

GOLD SPECIE

(£A)

Net surplus of imports	(+) 925	(-) 2,983	(-) 2,983	(+) 94	(+) 80	-	(+) 14
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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. The sign above the figure indicates increase (+) or decrease (-) in stocks during the period shown.

K. M. ARCHER

ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 5TH OCTOBER, 1960.