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MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE (other than for petroleum), AUSTRALIA
(PRELIMINARY)
1973-74

This bulletin contains annual statistics of expenditure on exploration for minerals *other than petroleum* in Australia. These statistics are derived from the annual mineral exploration census (excluding petroleum exploration) which is conducted by the Bureau in each State and the Northern Territory, except in New South Wales where it is conducted jointly with the State Mines Department.

2. Exploration is defined as the search for, and/or appraisal of, new ore occurrences and known deposits of minerals (including extensions to deposits being worked) by geological, geophysical, geochemical and other methods (including drilling). Exploration for water is excluded. The construction of shafts and adits is included if primarily for exploration purposes. Excluded are mine development activities (which include the construction of drives, shafts, winzes, etc.) in underground mines and the preparation of quarrying sites for open-cut extraction (including overburden removal).

3. The data obtained in the mineral exploration census are divided 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 of minerals. Also included is exploration by private enterprises which is not directly connected with areas under lease, licence, etc., including general surveys, aerial surveys, report writing, map preparation and other off-site activities not directly attributable to particular lease or licence areas.

(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) Australian Government (Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, the Joint Coal Board, and the Mines Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory).

4. Details of exploration by business undertakings operated by State and local government authorities, previously included in private exploration, is in 1973-74 included in exploration by State governments. Details of exploration by the Mines Department of the Northern Territory, previously included in State government exploration, is in 1973-74 included in exploration by the Australian Government. The comparability of the statistics of private exploration expenditure shown in the tables below has not been significantly affected by these changes. Statistics of government exploration expenditure for 1973-74 however are not comparable with those published for previous years.

5. Details of private exploration on licensed areas other than production leases, and other private exploration, which previously have been published separately in this bulletin, are no longer collected as separate items in the annual mineral exploration census.

6. Detailed mineral exploration (including petroleum exploration) statistics will be contained in the bulletin *Mineral Exploration, 1973-74* (Reference No. 10.41) to be published shortly.

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

TABLE 1. - PRIVATE EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE BY STATES, 1973-74 (a)(b)
(\$'000)

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Expenditure on -								
Production leases	2,077	277	2,621	524	6,792	1,200	866	14,357
Other private exploration	9,467	2,248	12,774	3,736	46,921	2,994	8,514	86,654
Total private expenditure	11,544	2,524	15,395	4,260	53,713	4,194	9,380	101,011

(a) See footnote below. (b) Preliminary

TABLE 2. - PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE,
AUSTRALIA, 1969-70 TO 1973-74
(\$'000)

	<i>1969-70</i>	<i>1970-71</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74 (a)(p)</i>
Private expenditure on -					
Production leases	21,091	27,552	21,179	13,703	14,357
Other private exploration	97,024	133,511	95,882	86,034	86,654
<i>Total private expenditure</i>	<i>118,115</i>	<i>161,063</i>	<i>117,061</i>	<i>99,738</i>	<i>101,011</i>
Government expenditure -					
State governments	2,708	3,386	3,732	4,341	5,619
Australian Government	3,995	3,928	4,663	5,061	5,292
<i>Total Government</i>	<i>6,704</i>	<i>7,314</i>	<i>8,394</i>	<i>9,402</i>	<i>10,911</i>
Total private and government expenditure	124,818	168,377	125,396	109,140	111,922

(a) Statistics for 1973-74 are in some respects not comparable with those for previous years; see paragraphs 4 and 5 of Explanatory Notes.

p - preliminary

J. G. MILLER
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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr B. Thorp on 49 0211 extension 391 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.