

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1978

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Aub Edwards on Canberra 526657 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 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.

Definition

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.

Classification

5. 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.

Expected expenditure

6. This refers to expected expenditure on petroleum 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 reservoirs, unexpected weather conditions, government policy changes, unforeseen changes in economic conditions) may cause actual expenditures to differ from those previously expected.

Related publications

7. Detailed information on petroleum exploration on an annual basis is included in *Mineral Exploration 1976-77* (8407.0). Quarterly statistics of mineral exploration (excluding petroleum) in Australia are available in *Mineral Exploration (other than for petroleum)* (8408.0). All statistical publications produced by the Canberra and State Offices of ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0), which is available free of charge from any of these Offices.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary — figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- .. not applicable.

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

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

Period	Private				Government			
	Onshore(a)	Offshore		Total	Onshore(a)	Offshore	Total	Total expenditure
		Drilling	Other					
Actual expenditure								
Quarter ended -								
1976								
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	3.9		13.6	17.5	0.8	0.3	1.0	18.5
June	3.5		16.4	19.9	0.9	0.3	1.2	21.2
September	6.2	12.9	3.4	22.5	1.0	0.4	1.3	23.8
December	5.8	18.9	3.1	27.7	1.3	0.7	2.0	29.8
1978								
March	5.5	22.0	4.0	31.6	1.7	0.3	2.0	33.5
June	16.5	16.2	5.0	37.7	10.9	0.3	11.2	48.9
September	9.2	17.0	5.1	31.3	0.9	0.4	1.3	32.6
Expected expenditure								
Six months ended -								
June 1977	..	..	..	43.5	..	..	2.2	45.6
December 1977	..	..	..	46.9	..	..	2.2	49.2
June 1978	..	..	..	59.5	..	..	2.4	61.9
December 1978	..	..	..	57.8	..	..	2.9	60.8

(a) Includes "Drilling" and "Other".

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

Year	Private onshore			Private offshore			Total private	Government (b)	Total expenditure
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total			
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
1977	9.6	5.6	15.2	56.6	13.1	69.7	84.9	4.7	89.6

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

Year	Onshore	Offshore	Total metres drilled
1974	34.2	87.1	121.3
1975	12.7	35.6	48.2
1976	32.0	15.1	47.1
Quarter ended -			
1976			
June	8.3	3.5	11.8
September	7.6	2.7	10.3
December	13.3	3.9	17.2
1977			
March	4.3	8.0	12.3
June	2.4	11.5	13.9
September	8.1	6.7	14.8
December	8.9	11.6	20.5
1978			
March	8.5	17.8	26.3
June	4.5	9.6	14.1
September	16.6	16.8	33.4