

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA

MONTH OF MAY, 1962

PRODUCTION

Mine Production. - The mine production of gold (i.e. the gold content of minerals produced) in Australia during May, 1962 was 86,147 fine ounces. This was 4,384 fine ounces more than production during the same month of 1961 (81,763 fine ounces), but 2,921 fine ounces less than the average monthly production for the year ended December, 1961 (89,068 fine ounces). Of the total output of 86,147 fine ounces for May, 1962, Western Australia produced 68,967 fine ounces (80.1 per cent.), Queensland 5,979 fine ounces (6.9 per cent.), the Northern Territory 4,838 fine ounces (5.6 per cent.), and other States the remaining 6,363 fine ounces (7.4 per cent.).

For the five months ended May, 1962, the mine production of gold was 412,414 fine ounces. This was 13,851 fine ounces less than production in the same period of 1961.

Refinery Production. - Total production of refined gold during May, 1962, was 95,910 fine ounces comprising 78,871 fine ounces of newly-won gold of Australian origin, 1,269 fine ounces recovered from Australian scrap, and 15,770 fine ounces from imported newly-won materials and scrap.

Refinery production of newly-won gold of Australian origin in the five months ended May, 1962, was 444,850 fine ounces, 8,558 fine ounces less than in the corresponding five months of 1961 (453,408 fine ounces).

Further details relating to gold production during May, 1962, and earlier periods are set out in Tables 1 to 4.

TABLE 1. - MINE PRODUCTION OF GOLD (a)

(Fine Ounces)

State or Territory	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January-May(b)		Monthly Totals (b)		
	1960	1961(b)	1961	1962	Mar., 1962	Apr., 1962	May, 1962
New South Wales	13,628	11,889	4,638	4,600	1,046	894	1,065
Victoria	28,566	26,211	9,280	10,057	2,309	1,907	2,198
Queensland	78,267	63,770	23,810	22,948	4,439	4,939	5,979
South Australia	36	55	..	..	..	..	..
Western Australia	869,966	870,658	349,020	334,989	70,108	58,868	68,967
Tasmania	23,994	26,894	9,763	(c) 13,700	(c) 2,800	(c) 2,800	(c) 3,100
Northern Territory	72,252	69,344	29,754	26,120	7,112	4,571	4,838
<u>AUSTRALIA:</u>	1,086,709	1,068,821	426,265	412,414	87,814	73,979	86,147

(a) Data for States refer to gold content of minerals originating in each State and the Northern Territory. There is no production in the Australian Capital Territory.

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

TABLE 2. - REFINERY PRODUCTION OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA

(Fine Ounces)

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January-May		Monthly Totals		
	1960	1961	1961	1962	Mar., 1962	Apr., 1962	May, 1962
<u>Australian Origin</u> -							
Newly-won gold	1,045,139	1,036,947	453,408	444,850	81,119	122,434	78,871
From scrap	22,699	22,593	8,358	7,938	1,549	1,897	1,269
<u>Overseas Origin</u> -							
Newly-won gold	142,526	155,598	64,944	56,146	12,228	8,052	15,705
From scrap	1,164	1,277	428	188	..	..	65
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1,211,528	1,216,415	527,138	509,122	94,896	132,423	95,910

TABLE 3. - REFINERY PRODUCTION OF NEWLY-WON GOLD OF AUSTRALIAN ORIGIN : AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January-May		Monthly Totals		
	1960	1961	1961	1962	March, 1962	April, 1962	May, 1962
Quantity (Fine Ounces)	1,045,139	1,036,947	453,408	444,850	81,119	122,434	78,871
Value (£'000) (a)	16,396	16,241	7,102	6,952	1,268	1,913	1,233

(a) Includes allowance for premiums on sales of gold overseas and for industrial purposes in Australia.

TABLE 4. - MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF NEWLY-WON GOLD : AUSTRALIA

(Fine Ounces)

Period	Mine Production (a)			Refinery Production (b)		
	1960	1961 (c)	1962 (c)	1960	1961	1962
January	79,348	81,892	82,318	78,737	83,289	81,317
February	80,599	83,400	82,156	82,588	84,043	81,109
March	93,470	81,994	87,814	76,656	82,058	81,119
April	94,258	97,216	73,979	86,448	122,163	122,434
May	81,419	81,763	86,147	130,839	81,855	78,871
Total for Five Months:	429,094	426,265	412,414	455,268	453,408	444,850
June	96,920	83,993		84,484	72,224	
Year ended June:	1,087,466	1,070,953		1,073,048	1,031,019	
July	90,323	88,027		76,841	77,237	
August	90,135	96,597		81,497	87,965	
September	94,519	89,922		87,013	89,908	
October	96,543	100,510		80,974	95,884	
November	90,690	89,748		99,251	79,394	
December	98,485	93,759		72,811	80,927	
Year ended December:	1,086,709	1,068,821		1,045,139	1,036,947	

(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 1954-62 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 Limited are offset against subsidy payments. Payments under the Act commenced in March, 1955, and are to continue until 30th June, 1965.

Table 5 shows particulars of cash payments, including advances, during the period shown. The series does not in any way correspond with production during these periods.

Further particulars of subsidy payments to gold producers to the end of 1961 were set out in the last annual issue of this Statistical Bulletin, i.e. for the year ended December, 1961.

TABLE 5. - NET SUBSIDY PAYMENTS TO GOLD PRODUCERS : AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Period	Net Subsidy Payments	Month	Net Subsidy Payments
	£		£
Year - 1960	814,598	1962 : February	22,279
1961	699,500	March	19,999
Jan.-May - 1961	257,112	April	817
1962	161,672	May	68,329

PRICES OF GOLD IN AUSTRALIA, IN LONDON AND OVERSEA PREMIUM MARKETS

Average prices of gold per fine ounce in Australia and overseas for the years 1959 to 1961, and for the months of March, April and May, 1962, are shown in Table 6.

Under existing legislation, all gold produced in Australia is sold to the Reserve Bank. Since 1st May, 1954, the official price of gold in Australia has been fixed at £15.12.6 per fine ounce. In 1951, the Commonwealth Government decided to allow newly-mined gold to be sold at a premium on overseas markets, and gold producers formed the Gold Producers' Association Limited, to arrange overseas sales on behalf of its members. By arrangement with the Reserve Bank, the total quantity of newly-won gold delivered to the Bank by members of the Association in any calendar month, less the quantity required for industrial purposes in Australia, is available to the Association for sale on overseas premium markets during the ensuing two calendar months.

The volume of sales on overseas premium markets has been largely dependent on the premium over the Australian fixed price, and it should be noted, therefore, that the series set out in Table 6 is in no way indicative of the average return to gold producers for all gold produced.

Further particulars of the sales of gold on overseas premium markets to the end of 1961 were set out in the last annual issue of this Statistical Bulletin, i.e. for the year ended December, 1961.

TABLE 6. - PRICES OF GOLD : AUSTRALIA, LONDON AND OVERSEA PREMIUM MARKETS
(per Fine Ounce)

Period	At Mints in Australia			London			Australian Gold sold on Oversea Premium Markets		
	£A.	s.	d.	£Stg.	s.	d.	£A.	s.	d.
Year : 1959	15.	12.	6	12.	9.	10	15.	12.	10
1960	15.	12.	6	12.	11.	2	15.	15.	5
1961	15.	12.	6	12.	11.	0	15.	13.	11
1962 : March	15.	12.	6	12.	9.	3	(a)		
April	15.	12.	6	12.	9.	3	(a)		
May	15.	12.	6	12.	9.	6	(a)		

(a) No sales.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD

Tables 7 and 8 show particulars of the imports and exports of gold for the month of May, 1962, and earlier periods.

TABLE 7. - IMPORTS OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA
(Fine Ounces)

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January-May		Monthly Totals (b)		
	1960	1961(b)	1961	1962(b)	March, 1962	April, 1962	May, 1962
<u>Unrefined bullion (c)</u>							
Country of origin -							
United Kingdom	..	133	..	..	..	..	..
New Guinea	43,181	37,366	12,896	16,867	188	2,463	6,214
Papua	40	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fiji	71,763	80,179	30,240	37,432	..	16,942	10,461
New Zealand	28,841	28,402	12,358	5,920	1,090	992	2,390
Solomon Islands	27	51	14	14	..	..	..
<u>Total unrefined bullion</u>	<u>143,852</u>	<u>146,131</u>	<u>55,508</u>	<u>60,233</u>	<u>1,278</u>	<u>20,397</u>	<u>19,065</u>
<u>Refined forms</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>..</u>
<u>Gold contained in matte</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>219</u>
<u>Importing States -</u>							
New South Wales	136,351	136,368	51,531	57,811	3	20,199	18,445
Victoria	7,682	10,055	3,977	2,844	1,275	199	839
<u>TOTAL IMPORTS:</u>	<u>144,033</u>	<u>146,423</u>	<u>55,508</u>	<u>60,655</u>	<u>1,278</u>	<u>20,398</u>	<u>19,284</u>

(a) Excludes specie, leaf and foil and gold imported in some minor minerals. Gold in unrefined forms other than the gold content of unrefined gold and silver bullion is also excluded. (b) Subject to revision. (c) Gold content.

TABLE 8. - EXPORTS OF GOLD (a) : AUSTRALIA
(Fine Ounces)

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January-May		Monthly Totals (b)		
	1960	1961(b)	1961	1962(b)	Mar., 1962	Apr., 1962	May, 1962
<u>Unrefined bullion (c)</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<u>Refined forms</u>							
Country of consignment -							
United Kingdom	2,300,211	348,711	308,427	..	..	..	..
Hong Kong	184,905	610,812	307,119	112,030	32,037	..	..
New Zealand	5,637	6,208	2,066	2,010	903	302	300
Fiji	267	653	254	82	23	9	10
France	..	100,672	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	..	31,845	..	..	..	..	..
Switzerland	22,363	..	..	..	..	..	..
United States of America	200	800	..	200	..	..	200
<u>Total refined forms:</u>	2,513,583	1,099,701	617,866	114,322	32,963	311	510
<u>Gold contained in matte</u>	323	..	..	..	..	..	..
States of final shipment -							
New South Wales	210,793	799,661	317,826	114,322	32,963	311	510
Victoria	51	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Australia	2,303,062	300,040	300,040	..	..	..	..
<u>TOTAL EXPORTS:</u>	2,513,906	1,099,701	617,866	114,322	32,963	311	510

(a) Excludes specie, leaf and foil and gold in unrefined forms other than the gold content of unrefined gold and silver bullion. See Table 9 for the quantities of gold contained in ores and concentrates exported. (b) Subject to revision. (c) Gold content.

CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Table 9 shows details of changes in stocks of gold held in Australia during May,* 1962, and in earlier periods.

TABLE 9. - CHANGES IN STOCKS OF GOLD HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Annual Totals		Cumulative Totals January-May (a)		Monthly Totals (a)		
	1960	1961(a)	1961	1962	Mar., 1962	Apr., 1962	May, 1962
<u>GOLD (OTHER THAN SPECIE)</u> (Fine Ounces)							
Mine Production (b)	1,086,709	1,068,821	426,265	412,414	87,814	73,979	86,147
Imports (c) (d)	144,033	146,423	55,508	60,655	1,278	20,396	19,284
Exports (c)	2,513,906	1,099,701	617,866	114,322	32,963	311	510
Gold content of ores and concentrates exported	25,803	39,377	15,061	18,553	3,528	2,225	4,111
Net industrial consumption	40,972	36,607	15,968	19,153	6,010	4,786	3,564
Changes in stocks held in Australia (e)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
	1,349,939	39,559	167,122	321,041	46,591	87,055	97,246

GOLD SPECIE
(£A)

Net surplus of imports	(-) 82	(+) 1,064	(+) 499	(+) 3,000	(+) 3,000	..	..
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(a) Subject to revision. (b) Gold content of minerals produced in Australia.
 (c) Includes gold contained in matte. Excludes specie, leaf and foil and gold in unrefined forms other than the gold content of unrefined gold and silver bullion.
 (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

COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA. A.C.T. 30TH JULY, 1962

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics can be made in Canberra by telephoning J1971 Extension 14, or in State Capitals, by telephoning the offices of the Deputy Commonwealth Statisticians.