

Reference No. 10.75

MINERAL EXPLORATION (other than for petroleum),
EXPENDITURE BY PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISES

SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1975

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin contains quarterly statistics of expenditure on mineral exploration in Australia (other than for petroleum). More detailed information on mineral exploration, including petroleum exploration, on an annual basis, is shown in *Mineral Exploration, 1973-74*, (Reference No. 10.41). Quarterly statistics of petroleum exploration in Australia are available in *Petroleum Exploration* (Reference No. 10.76).

COVERAGE

2. Details of expenditure are collected only from the *principal enterprises* undertaking exploration activity. For any quarter these comprise:—

- (i) All government authorities engaged in mineral exploration.
- (ii) Private enterprises who in the 1973-74 Annual Mineral Exploration Census reported anticipated exploration expenditure for the following year (i.e. for 1974-75) in excess of \$100,000.
- (iii) Other private enterprises known to have spent more than \$50,000 in the quarter.

DEFINITIONS

3. *Exploration* consists of the search for, and/or appraisal of, new ore occurrences and known deposits of minerals by geological, geophysical, geochemical and other exploration methods (including drilling). This includes construction of shafts and adits primarily for exploration purposes but excludes mine development activities. Exploration for water is excluded.

4. *Exploration expenditure* includes expenditure on aerial surveys, general surveys, report writing, map preparation and other activities indirectly attributable to exploration.

CLASSIFICATION

5. The data obtained in the survey are classified 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 for minerals. Also included is exploration by private enterprises which is not directly connected with areas under lease, licence, etc.
- (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 Mines Branch of the Department of Northern Australia, and when applicable, the Joint Coal Board, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Petroleum and Minerals Authority).

ANTICIPATED EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

6. *Anticipated expenditure* represents the expenditures anticipated at the beginning of the half year. Subsequent events (e.g. discoveries of new orebodies, unexpected weather conditions, unforeseen changes in economic conditions) may cause actual expenditures to differ from those anticipated.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

7. 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

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

TABLE 1. - EXPENDITURE BY PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISES ON MINERAL EXPLORATION (a), AUSTRALIA - ACTUAL AND ANTICIPATED (\$ million)

Period	Private expenditure			Government expenditure			
	Expenditure on production leases	Other private expenditure	Total private expenditure	State government	Australian government	Total government expenditure	Total expenditure
Actual expenditure							
Quarter ended -							
1973-74							
March	2.5	15.9	18.4	1.2	1.2	2.4	20.8
June	3.1	19.9	23.0	1.9	1.6	3.5	26.5
1974-75							
September	3.3	22.5	25.8	1.7	1.4	3.0	28.9
December	3.2	29.3	32.4	2.0	1.8	3.8	36.2
March	4.1	18.5	22.6	1.7	1.4	3.1	25.7
June	2.3	r22.6	r24.8	2.4	2.3	4.7	r30.5
1975-76							
September	2.4	21.2	23.6	1.8	2.8	4.6	28.2
Anticipated expenditure							
Six months ended -							
December 1974	n.a.	n.a.	51.1	3.5	3.1	6.6	57.7
June 1975	n.a.	n.a.	47.0	3.6	4.1	7.7	54.6
December 1975	n.a.	n.a.	41.5	3.7	4.1	7.8	49.3

(a) See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes for definition of coverage.

n.a. not available, not separately collected.

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TABLE 2. - ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON MINERAL EXPLORATION BY ALL ENTERPRISES (a), AUSTRALIA (\$ million)

Period	Private expenditure			Government expenditure			
	Expenditure on production leases	Other private expenditure	Total private expenditure	State government	Australian government	Total government expenditure	Total expenditure
1969-70	21.1	97.0	118.1	2.7	3.2	5.9	124.0
1970-71	27.6	133.5	161.1	3.4	3.1	6.5	167.6
1971-72	21.2	95.9	117.1	3.7	3.7	7.4	124.5
1972-73	13.7	86.0	99.7	4.3	4.0	8.4	108.1
1973-74	14.4	87.3	101.7	5.6(b)	5.3(b)	10.9(b)	112.5

(a) The statistics in this table are derived from the Annual Census of Mineral Exploration Expenditure in Australia, in which data are obtained from all companies or organisations engaged in exploration. (b) As a result of changes which were made to definitions of government expenditure in 1973-74 these statistics are NOT COMPARABLE with those published for previous years.

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NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr B. Thorp on 52 7911 extension 5631 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.