



Australian Bureau of Statistics

CATALOGUE NO. 8412.0
EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 21 JUNE 1989

ACTUAL AND EXPECTED PRIVATE MINERAL EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA MARCH QUARTER 1989

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ELECTRONIC SERVICES

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum)

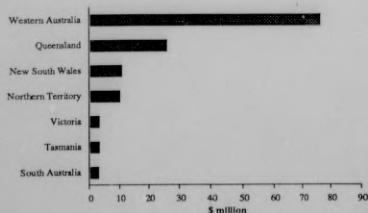
Mineral exploration expenditure decreased by 32% (or \$63.8m) in the March quarter 1989 to \$132.8m. This was \$50.9m (or 28%) lower compared to the March quarter 1988, however explorers reported that major flooding over much of northern Australia caused a significant reduction in the level of expenditure during the three months.

Mineral exploration expenditure for the first three quarters of 1988-89 was \$68.4m or 12% lower compared to the same period for 1987-88.

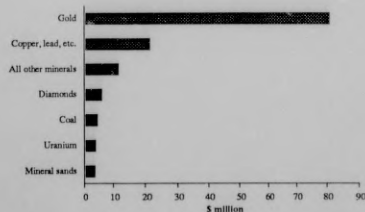
Expenditure on gold exploration showed the greatest decrease, down \$45.0m from its December quarter level of \$126.0m. However, uranium showed the largest percentage decrease (63%), with expenditure falling from \$10.7m to \$4.0m in the March quarter.

All states recorded declines in expenditure with South Australia and the Northern Territory showing the largest percentage declines of 53% (or \$3.4m) and 52% (or \$10.0m) respectively.

EXPENDITURE BY STATE



EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT



Petroleum exploration

Adverse weather conditions also resulted in a 35% (\$68.1m) decline in petroleum exploration expenditure. This decline was almost identical to that recorded in the same quarter last year (34% or \$51.0m). However, petroleum exploration expenditure for the first three quarters of 1988-89 was \$123.1m or 35% higher compared to the same period for 1987-88.

TABLE 1 - PRIVATE EXPLORATION: ACTUAL AND EXPECTED EXPENDITURE

Period	Mineral (other than petroleum)			Petroleum onshore			Petroleum offshore		
	Expenditure		Actual as a percentage of Expected	Expenditure		Actual as a percentage of Expected	Expenditure		Actual as a percentage of Expected
	Actual	Expected(a)		Actual	Expected(a)		Actual	Expected(a)	
	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%
1983-84	428.7	409.8	104.6	283.1	330.4	85.7	540.6	481.1	112.4
1984-85	437.3	419.4	104.3	419.6	404.1	103.8	373.6	329.6	113.3
1985-86	442.0	394.1	112.2	367.8	383.4	95.9	398.0	460.2	86.5
1986-87	556.8	516.5	107.8	171.0	171.3	99.8	134.1	114.9	116.7
1987-88	800.9	607.5	131.8	271.9	304.9	89.2	223.2	181.2	123.2
Six months ended									
December 1987	396.0	(b)	..	153.6	169.4	90.7	102.1	60.2	169.6
June 1988	404.9	315.0	128.5	118.3	135.5	87.3	121.1	121.0	100.1
December 1988	378.5	318.0	119.0	145.7	128.9	113.0	202.7	210.9	96.1
June 1989	n.y.a.	260.7	..	n.y.a.	172.2	..	n.y.a.	194.1	..

(a) As reported in a previous census. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 9. (b) Not collected.

TABLE 2 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE AND METRES DRILLED

Period	Expenditure (\$ million)			Metres drilled ('000 metres)		
	On production leases	Other	Total	On production leases	Other	Total
1983-84	40.7	388.0	428.7	599	2,600	3,198
1984-85	44.7	392.7	437.3	646	2,745	3,391
1985-86	63.8	378.3	442.0	737	2,800	3,537
1986-87	115.2	441.6	556.8	1,169	3,794	4,963
1987-88	148.3	652.6	800.9	1,839	6,519	8,358
1987-88 -						
December quarter	31.2	183.2	214.4	403	1,969	2,372
March quarter	40.3	143.4	183.7	454	1,460	1,914
June quarter	44.2	177.0	221.2	633	1,501	2,134
1988-89 -						
September quarter	28.0	153.9	181.9	594	1,443	2,037
December quarter	33.7	162.9	196.6	456	1,175	1,631
March quarter	25.1	107.7	132.8	344	931	1,274

TABLE 3 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE BY STATE (\$ million)

Period	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	Australia
1983-84	55.6	11.1	80.7	54.4	184.7	18.0	24.2	428.7
1984-85	49.5	15.2	79.5	57.6	189.8	17.8	28.0	437.3
1985-86	51.8	12.3	88.6	48.9	205.2	10.6	24.6	442.0
1986-87	47.6	15.5	120.6	11.0	323.3	10.9	27.9	556.8
1987-88(a)	61.5	33.9	159.3	18.9	466.3	10.4	48.9	799.2
1988-89 -								
September quarter	12.1	5.1	35.3	4.6	104.7	2.5	17.5	181.9
December quarter	15.7	6.6	36.0	6.4	106.9	3.9	21.1	196.6
March quarter	10.8	3.3	26.0	3.0	76.4	3.3	10.1	132.8

(a) From annual census. Differs from the sum of the four quarters shown for 1987-88 in Tables 1 and 2 due to some off - June year reporting.

TABLE 4 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT BY STATE, MARCH QUARTER 1989
(\$ million)

	<i>Copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel and cobalt</i>	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	<i>Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram</i>	Uranium	Construction Coal materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
New South Wales	3.2	3.5	-	0.9	n.p.	-	2.4	n.p.	0.1	10.8
Victoria	0.2	2.2	-	n.p.	-	-	n.p.	-	n.p.	0.7
Queensland	9.2	13.0	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.3	n.p.	n.p.	1.1
South Australia	0.4	0.9	n.p.	0.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-	0.5	0.2
Western Australia	6.8	53.2	1.0	1.8	0.1	n.p.	0.8	n.p.	4.7	6.6
Tasmania	1.0	1.5	n.p.	0.3	0.1	-	n.p.	-	-	0.3
Northern Territory	0.7	6.7	-	n.p.	n.p.	1.9	-	-	0.8	0.1
Australia	21.5	81.0	1.5	3.8	0.4	4.0	4.6	0.1	6.2	132.8

TABLE 5 - MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM): EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT, AUSTRALIA
(\$ million)

Period	<i>Copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel and cobalt</i>	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	<i>Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram</i>	Uranium	Construction Coal materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
1983-84	138.3	152.1	9.3	2.4	21.8	20.4	43.7	0.6	26.9	13.3
1984-85	134.8	177.0	15.8	2.4	14.2	13.1	34.6	0.5	28.6	16.5
1985-86	79.1	214.5	11.6	5.9	7.7	50.2	32.2	1.7	23.1	16.1
1986-87	76.9	357.4	11.6	7.3	3.0	22.0	36.6	3.3	17.2	21.6
1987-88(a)	83.9	581.0	11.8	12.5	2.8	23.2	24.5	0.9	24.3	34.1
1988-89										
September quarter	20.7	122.4	2.4	3.8	0.1	8.9	6.9	0.1	9.1	7.6
December quarter	31.1	126.0	1.6	3.6	0.4	10.7	7.5	0.3	8.6	7.0
March quarter	21.5	81.0	1.5	3.8	0.4	4.0	4.6	0.1	6.2	9.7

(a) From annual census. Differs from the sum of the four quarters shown for Tables 1 and 2 due to some off - June year reporting.

TABLE 6 - PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE
(\$ million)

Period	Onshore			Offshore			Total expenditure		
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total	On production leases	Other	Total
1983-84	139.9	143.2	283.1	472.9	67.7	540.6	n.a.	n.a.	823.7
1984-85	224.2	195.4	419.6	284.6	89.0	373.6	n.a.	n.a.	793.2
1985-86	149.6	218.1	367.8	277.5	120.5	398.0	59.3	706.5	765.8
1986-87	69.7	101.3	171.0	78.5	55.7	134.1	51.3	253.9	305.2
1987-88	154.8	117.1	271.9	137.7	85.5	223.2	122.8	372.3	495.1
1987-88									
December quarter	53.3	36.4	89.7	38.4	21.0	59.4	37.9	111.2	149.1
March quarter	33.1	23.3	56.3	18.2	23.5	41.8	31.5	66.6	98.1
June quarter	35.6	26.4	62.0	53.3	26.0	79.3	31.5	109.9	141.3
1988-89									
September quarter	43.3	24.0	67.3	57.9	26.6	84.5	35.8	115.9	151.8
December quarter	48.3	30.1	78.4	88.3	29.9	118.2	35.4	161.3	196.6
March quarter	22.9	15.5	38.4	65.6	24.5	90.1	22.7	105.8	128.5

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains annual and quarterly statistics of private sector exploration for minerals (other than oil shale) in Australia (excluding the A.C.T.).

Source

2. Data collected and compiled from the exploration censuses conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Scope

3. All exploration activity is included regardless of the main activity of the explorer.

Coverage

4. Details of exploration are collected from all private enterprises known to be engaged in exploration.

Classification

5. The following categories are used:

(a) *Production lease/Other*, where a *production lease* is an area on which production or development is actually taking place.

(b) *Onshore/Offshore*, where *offshore* includes all operations in a marine area under the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967 or under any Acts administered by State governments.

(c) *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.

Definitions

6. *Minerals*. In the broad sense comprise metallic minerals, construction materials, gemstones, other non-metallic minerals, oil shale and petroleum (oil or gas).

7. *Exploration*. The search for new ore occurrences or undiscovered oil or gas, and/or appraisal intended to delineate or greatly extend the limits of known deposits of minerals or oil or gas reservoirs by geological, geophysical, geochemical, drilling or other methods. This includes construction of shafts and adits primarily for exploration purposes but excludes activity of a developmental or production nature. Exploration for water is excluded.

8. *Exploration expenditure*. All expenditure on exploration activity in Australia. It includes expenditure on aerial surveys (including landsat photographs), general surveys, report writing, map preparation and other activities indirectly attributable to exploration. Cash bids for offshore petroleum exploration permits are also included.

9. *Expected expenditure*. This refers to expected expenditure on exploration as reported by private enterprise explorers who were included in the previous census. The number of explorers reporting actual expenditure for any

given period will be greater than the number that reported expected expenditure in a previous census because of enterprises which subsequently commenced exploration. In addition, events such as new discoveries, unexpected weather conditions, government policy changes and unforeseen changes in economic conditions may cause actual expenditures to differ from those previously expected. The differences between actual and expected expenditure can be seen in Table 1.

Related publications

10. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

11. Publications showing details of wells and metres drilled in petroleum exploration are available from the Petroleum Branch of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

Symbols and other usages

n.y.a. not yet available
n.p. not available for separate publication but included in totals
n.a. not available
.. not applicable
- nil or rounded to zero

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

13. The figures shown in this publication have been revised where necessary and as a consequence may not agree with similar data shown in previous publications.

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ISSN 1033-0542