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ACTUAL AND EXPECTED PRIVATE MINERAL EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA JUNE QUARTER 1995

MAIN FEATURES

Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum)

Total mineral exploration expenditure for 1994-95 was \$893.3 million, an increase of 12.7 per cent compared with 1993-94. Exploration for gold increased by \$100.7 million (22.2 per cent). The largest increases were reported in Western Australia (\$41.8 million or 9.2 per cent) and Queensland (\$35.8 million or 25.5 per cent).

Exploration expenditure for the June quarter 1995 totalled \$244.6 million, an increase of 10.9 per cent compared with the June quarter 1994, and an increase of 28.5 per cent compared to the March quarter 1995.

Exploration for gold increased by 38.9 per cent since March quarter 1995 to \$158.6 million (\$25.2 million more than in the June quarter 1994). Exploration for base metals rose 4.7 per cent in the quarter, and coal exploration rose 25.7 per cent.

Expenditure on production leases for the June quarter 1995 increased by 24.1 per cent from the previous quarter, but was 7.3 per cent lower than the June quarter 1994. Expenditure on all other areas increased by 29.9

per cent from the March quarter 1995, and was 18.1 per cent higher than in the June quarter 1994.

The total metres drilled during the June quarter 1995 was 34.4 per cent more than in March quarter, and 10.6 per cent greater than in the June quarter 1994.

Petroleum exploration

Total expenditure on petroleum exploration in the June quarter 1995 was \$190.2 million, an increase of 48.4 per cent compared to the March quarter 1995, and 53.1 per cent more than in the June quarter 1994.

Expenditure on production leases increased by 41.1 per cent compared to the June quarter 1994. Expenditure on all other areas increased by 55.3 per cent over the same period.

Total onshore exploration increased by 12.4 per cent compared to the June quarter 1994. Total offshore exploration rose by 77.2 per cent over the same period.

TABLE 1. MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)
EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT BY STATE, 1994-1995
(\$ million)

	<i>Copper, lead zinc, silver nickel and cobalt</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Iron ore</i>	<i>Mineral sands</i>	<i>Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram</i>	<i>Uranium</i>	<i>Coal</i>	<i>Con- struction materials</i>	<i>Diamonds</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
New South Wales	22.0	41.6	0.8	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	—	1.9	n.p.	79.2
Victoria	2.2	22.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	31.2
Queensland	79.1	59.8	n.p.	0.7	0.5	1.9	27.9	0.3	n.p.	5.2	176.0
South Australia	10.4	5.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1.6	n.p.	20.9
Western Australia	58.8	379.4	9.8	4.1	—	n.p.	0.6	n.p.	35.2	3.8	495.5
Tasmania	10.3	2.9	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	14.9
Northern Territory	18.6	43.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1.5	—	n.p.	8.9	1.9	75.8
Australia	201.0	554.5	12.1	5.8	1.1	7.8	38.0	0.9	48.4	23.5	893.3

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Nicole Pikos in Darwin on (089) 432 171 or any ABS Office.
- for any information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services in Canberra on (06) 252 6007 or any other ABS State Office.

TABLE 2. 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	per cent	\$m	\$m	per cent	\$m	\$m	per cent
1990-91	601.7	452.6	132.9	217.1	165.8	130.9	365.4	326.8	111.8
1991-92	604.0	466.5	129.5	135.3	191.3	70.7	338.8	344.0	98.5
1992-93	631.8	532.8	118.6	115.2	131.1	87.9	496.7	438.5	113.3
1993-94	792.6	553.0	143.3	144.5	100.1	144.4	362.1	459.2	78.9
1994-95	893.3	696.2	128.3	163.8	120.3	136.2	519.8	592.1	87.8
<i>Six months ended</i>									
June 1994	396.2	319.4	124.1	78.4	41.3	189.8	158.5	235.1	67.4
December 1994	458.4	349.2	131.3	84.0	58.8	142.9	281.1	336.3	83.6
June 1995	434.9	347.0	125.3	79.8	61.5	129.8	238.7	255.8	93.3
December 1995	n.y.a.	349.0	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	84.4	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	207.4	n.y.a.

(a) As reported in a previous census. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 9.

TABLE 3. MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN PETROLEUM)
EXPENDITURE AND METRES DRILLED

Period	Expenditure (\$ million)			Metres drilled ('000 metres)		
	On production leases	On all other areas	Total	On production leases	On all other areas	Total
1990-91	115.4	486.3	601.7	1,760	4,452	6,212
1991-92	130.9	473.1	604.0	1,626	4,253	5,877
1992-93	148.4	483.4	631.8	1,944	5,049	6,993
1993-94	184.4	608.1	792.6	2,770	6,810	9,580
1994-95	202.5	690.7	893.3	3,329	7,001	10,330
<i>1993-94</i>						
March quarter	38.8	136.8	175.6	596	1,446	2,042
June quarter	60.0	160.0	220.6	842	1,643	2,485
<i>1994-95</i>						
September quarter	51.0	175.0	226.1	833	1,918	2,751
December quarter	51.1	181.2	232.3	938	1,847	2,785
March quarter	44.8	145.5	190.3	726	1,319	2,045
June quarter	55.6	189.0	244.6	832	1,917	2,749

TABLE 4. MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM) : EXPENDITURE BY STATE

Period	(\$ million)							
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Australia
1990-91	60.6	12.7	124.1	15.5	324.8	9.9	53.9	601.7
1991-92	63.3	12.6	109.9	19.7	332.8	7.9	57.8	604.0
1992-93	60.9	12.2	117.9	21.3	348.1	7.8	63.5	631.8
1993-94	73.6	20.7	140.2	24.7	453.7	10.2	69.5	792.6
1994-95	79.2	31.2	176.0	20.9	495.5	14.9	75.8	893.3
<i>1993-94</i>								
March quarter	15.8	6.3	30.2	6.9	100.9	3.4	12.1	175.6
June quarter	25.0	6.3	37.0	5.8	123.4	3.1	19.9	220.6
<i>1994-95</i>								
September quarter	18.4	6.7	45.0	4.6	127.5	2.8	21.1	226.1
December quarter	18.3	6.5	53.7	5.1	126.4	2.9	19.3	232.3
March quarter	19.8	9.3	32.4	4.6	106.3	4.0	14.1	190.3
June quarter	22.7	8.7	44.9	6.6	135.3	5.2	21.3	244.6

TABLE 5. MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)
EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT BY STATE, JUNE QUARTER 1995
(\$ million)

Period	Copper, lead zinc, silver nickel and cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	Uranium	Coal	Con- struction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
Victoria	0.5	5.8	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	—	0.1	2.1	8.7
Queensland	18.5	16.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	7.2	n.p.	n.p.	1.3	44.9
South Australia	3.1	1.9	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.4	n.p.	6.6
Western Australia	14.1	108.2	4.4	0.4	—	n.p.	0.2	n.p.	6.7	1.1	135.3
Tasmania	3.7	1.4	n.p.	—	—	—	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	5.2
Northern Territory	5.5	12.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1.0	—	n.p.	2.4	0.2	21.3
Australia	51.5	158.6	5.3	0.6	0.4	2.2	9.3	0.4	10.3	6.1	244.6

TABLE 6. MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)
EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT, AUSTRALIA
(\$ million)

Period	Copper, lead zinc, silver nickel and cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	Uranium	Coal	Con- struction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
1991-92	144.9	304.7	36.9	13.9	1.7	12.8	27.5	1.6	35.7	24.3	604.0
1992-93	183.4	320.1	24.0	9.8	0.5	8.8	24.2	1.1	38.1	21.9	631.8
1993-94	191.6	453.7	18.8	8.5	1.1	7.6	27.7	1.3	58.7	23.5	792.6
1994-95	201.0	554.5	12.1	5.8	1.1	7.8	38.0	0.9	48.4	23.5	893.3
<i>1993-94</i>											
March quarter	40.2	108.8	2.5	1.5	0.7	1.4	6.8	0.3	9.3	4.1	175.6
June quarter	50.6	133.4	1.2	2.2	0.2	1.4	7.4	0.4	16.9	6.8	220.6
<i>1994-95</i>											
September quarter	47.8	138.2	2.9	1.9	0.1	2.1	10.7	0.1	17.0	5.2	226.1
December quarter	52.5	143.5	2.5	1.8	0.4	1.7	10.6	0.2	12.5	6.5	232.3
March quarter	49.2	114.2	1.4	1.5	0.2	1.8	7.4	0.2	8.6	5.8	190.3
June quarter	51.5	158.6	5.3	0.6	0.4	2.2	9.3	0.4	10.3	6.1	244.6

TABLE 7. PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE
(\$ million)

Period	Onshore						Offshore			Total expenditure		Total
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total	On production leases	On all other areas				
									1990-91	128.8	88.3	
1991-92	60.5	75.0	135.3	142.2	196.4	338.8	70.4	403.6	473.9			
1992-93	62.8	52.4	115.2	283.7	213.1	496.7	69.1	542.9	611.9			
1993-94	84.4	60.0	144.5	208.0	154.2	362.2	70.1	436.5	506.7			
1994-95	83.2	80.7	163.8	384.9	134.9	519.8	103.9	579.5	683.6			
<i>1993-94</i>												
March quarter	14.5	17.9	32.4	40.0	40.4	80.3	15.0	97.7	112.7			
June quarter	29.3	16.7	46.0	41.2	37.0	78.2	20.2	104.1	124.2			
<i>1994-95</i>												
September quarter	26.0	15.8	41.7	108.5	30.2	138.7	28.9	151.5	180.5			
December quarter	17.2	25.1	42.3	106.7	35.7	142.4	25.9	158.7	184.7			
March quarter	11.9	16.2	28.1	73.6	26.5	100.1	20.6	107.6	128.2			
June quarter	28.1	23.6	51.7	96.1	42.5	138.6	28.5	161.7	190.2			

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains annual and quarterly statistics of private sector exploration for minerals (other than oil shale) in Australia.

Source

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

Scope and coverage

3. All exploration activity is included, regardless of the main activity of the explorer. Details of exploration are collected from all private enterprises known to be engaged in exploration.

4. From September quarter 1989 details of mineral explorers reporting less than \$5,000 per quarter have been excluded from the Tables, resulting in a small break in the series from 1989-90. Data linking the two collection methodologies for Tables 2, 3, 4 and 6 are contained in the September quarter 1990 issue.

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 these comprise metallic minerals, construction materials, gemstones, other non-metallic minerals and petroleum (oil or gas).

7. *Exploration*. This includes 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*. This covers 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. 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 2.

Related Information

10. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications and Products 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 the details of wells and metres drilled in petroleum exploration are available from the Petroleum Resource Assessment Branch of the Bureau of Resource Sciences.

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
— nil or rounded to zero
r figures revised since previous issue

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

13. Percentage changes shown in this publication have been calculated on actual figures as reported by explorers.

Electronic services

Electronic Data Services

A large range of ABS data is available via on-line services, diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge, and CD-ROM. For more details on Electronic Data Services contact Information Services in any of the ABS Offices.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

