

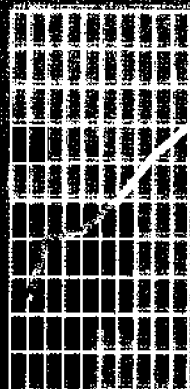


December Quarter 1995

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30 AM TUES 9 APRIL 1996

Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration

Australia



ABS Catalogue No. 8412.0

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES	<i>ISSUE (Quarter)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
	March 1996	20 June 1996
	June 1996	20 September 1996

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Loucas Harous in Darwin on (089) 432 171 or any ABS office.

For any information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

Dennis Trewin
Acting Australian Statistician

MAIN FEATURES

MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)

Exploration expenditure in the December quarter 1995 totalled \$229.3 million, an increase of 2.9% compared with the September quarter 1995 and a decrease of 1.3% compared with the December quarter 1994.

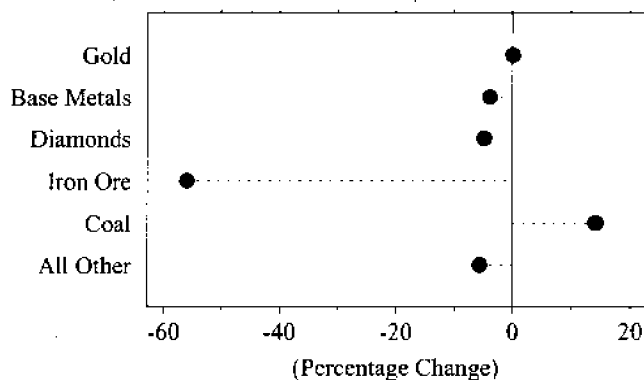
Expenditure on production leases in the December quarter 1995 increased by 5.1% from the previous quarter, and was 7.8% lower than the December quarter 1994. Expenditure on all other areas increased by 2.3% from the September quarter 1995, and was 0.6% higher than in the December quarter 1994.

The total metres drilled during the December quarter 1995 (2.3 million metres) was 18.5% less than in September quarter 1995, and 18.1% lower than in the December quarter 1994.

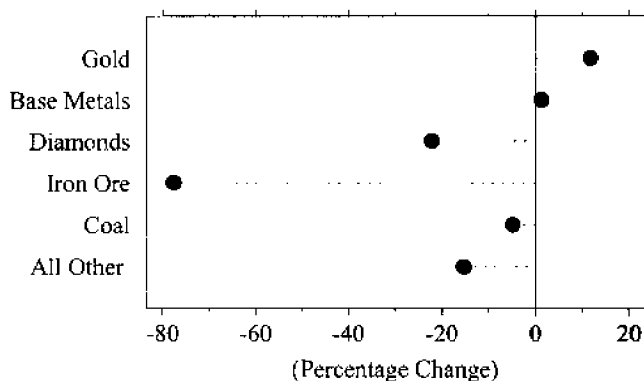
Exploration for gold in the December quarter 1995 increased 11.8% (\$15.2 million) compared with September quarter 1995 while exploration for iron ore decreased 77.6% (\$3.8 million) for the same period.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT

December quarter 1994 to December quarter 1995



September quarter 1995 to December quarter 1995



PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

Total expenditure on petroleum exploration in the December quarter 1995 was \$202.3 million, a slight decrease from September quarter 1995, but 9.5% more than in the December quarter 1994.

Expenditure on production leases decreased by 24.3% compared with the December quarter 1994. Expenditure on all other areas increased by 15.1% over the same period.

Total onshore exploration increased by 28.4% compared with the December quarter 1994 with total offshore exploration rising by 3.9% over the same period.

1 PRIVATE EXPLORATION, Actual and Expected Expenditure

Period	Mineral (other than for 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	%
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	169.0	120.3	140.5	519.8	592.1	87.8
Six months ended									
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	85.0	61.5	138.2	238.7	255.8	93.3
December 1995	452.2	349.0	129.6	104.3	84.4	123.6	301.1	207.4	145.2
June 1996	n.y.a.	354.0	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	101.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	220.4	n.y.a.

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

2 MINERAL EXPLORATION (Other than for Petroleum), Expenditure and Metres Drilled

Period	Expenditure (\$m)			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
1994-95						
September qtr	51.0	175.0	226.1	833	1,918	2,751
December qtr	51.1	181.2	232.3	938	1,847	2,785
March qtr	44.8	145.5	190.3	726	1,319	2,045
June qtr	55.6	189.0	244.6	832	1,917	2,749
1995-96						
September qtr	44.8	178.1	222.9	866	1,933	2,799
December qtr	47.1	182.2	229.3	824	1,458	2,282

3 MINERAL EXPLORATION (Other than for Petroleum), Expenditure By State (\$m)

Period	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
1994-95								
September qtr	18.4	6.7	45.0	4.6	127.5	2.8	21.1	226.1
December qtr	18.3	6.5	53.7	5.1	126.4	2.9	19.3	232.3
March qtr	19.8	9.3	32.4	4.6	106.3	4.0	14.1	190.3
June qtr	22.7	8.7	44.9	6.6	135.3	5.2	21.3	244.6
1995-96								
September qtr	20.5	8.2	43.8	5.6	124.9	2.5	17.5	222.9
December qtr	17.7	11.5	39.4	6.6	128.9	5.6	19.5	229.3

4 MINERAL EXPLORATION (Other than for Petroleum) Expenditure By Type of Mineral Sought By State, December Quarter 1995 (\$m)

State	Copper, lead zinc, silver nickel and cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	Uranium	Coal	Con- struction materials	Diamonds	Other	Total
New South Wales	6.6	7.8	—	n.p.	—	—	2.3	—	n.p.	0.3	17.7
Victoria	0.7	8.3	—	—	—	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	2.3	11.5
Queensland	16.4	12.3	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	9.2	—	—	0.8	39.4
South Australia	3.4	1.5	—	—	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	0.5	n.p.	6.6
Western Australia	17.5	100.0	1.0	1.1	—	n.p.	0.4	—	7.4	n.p.	128.9
Tasmania	2.4	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.6
Northern Territory	3.6	10.6	—	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	3.7	—	19.5
Australia	50.5	143.7	1.1	1.6	0.2	2.3	12.1	—	11.9	5.9	229.3

5 MINERAL EXPLORATION (Other than for Petroleum), Expenditure By Type of Mineral Sought, Australia (\$m)

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
1990-91	171.8	300.8	11.2	19.2	2.4	12.8	23.1	2.7	39.0	18.5	601.7
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
1994-95											
September qtr	47.8	138.2	2.9	1.9	0.1	2.1	10.7	0.1	17.0	5.2	226.1
December qtr	52.5	143.5	2.5	1.8	0.4	1.7	10.6	0.2	12.5	6.5	232.3
March qtr	49.2	114.2	1.4	1.5	0.2	1.8	7.4	0.2	8.6	5.8	190.3
June qtr	51.5	158.6	5.3	0.6	0.4	2.2	9.3	0.4	10.3	6.1	244.6
1995-96											
September qtr	49.8	128.5	4.9	2.1	0.1	2.1	12.7	0.6	15.3	6.9	222.9
December qtr	50.5	143.7	1.1	1.6	0.2	2.3	12.1	—	11.9	5.9	229.3

6 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE (\$m)

Period	Onshore			Offshore			Total expenditure		
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total	On production leases	On all other areas	Total
1990-91	128.8	88.3	217.1	257.1	108.4	365.4	131.2	451.4	582.6
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	85.6	83.5	169.0	384.9	134.9	519.8	104.7	584.2	688.8
1994-95									
September qtr	26.0	15.8	41.7	108.5	30.2	138.7	28.9	151.5	180.5
December qtr	17.2	25.1	42.3	106.7	35.7	142.4	25.9	158.7	184.7
March qtr	11.9	16.2	28.1	73.6	26.5	100.1	20.6	107.6	128.2
June qtr	30.5	26.4	56.9	96.1	42.5	138.6	29.3	166.4	195.7
1994-95									
September qtr	30.9	19.2	50.0	120.4	32.8	153.2	17.7	185.6	203.2
December qtr	28.7	25.6	54.3	103.9	44.0	147.9	19.6	182.7	202.3

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- INTRODUCTION** **1** 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 1, 2, 3, and 4 are contained in the September quarter 1990 issue.
- CLASSIFICATION** **5** The following categories are used:
- *Production lease/Other*, where a production lease is an area on which production or development is actually taking place.
 - *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.
 - *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 1.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

10 Users may also wish to refer to the following priced publications which are available on request:

The Australian Mining Industry, 1993-94 (8414.0)

Australian Business Expectations (5250.0)

Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (5625.0)

11 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 *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

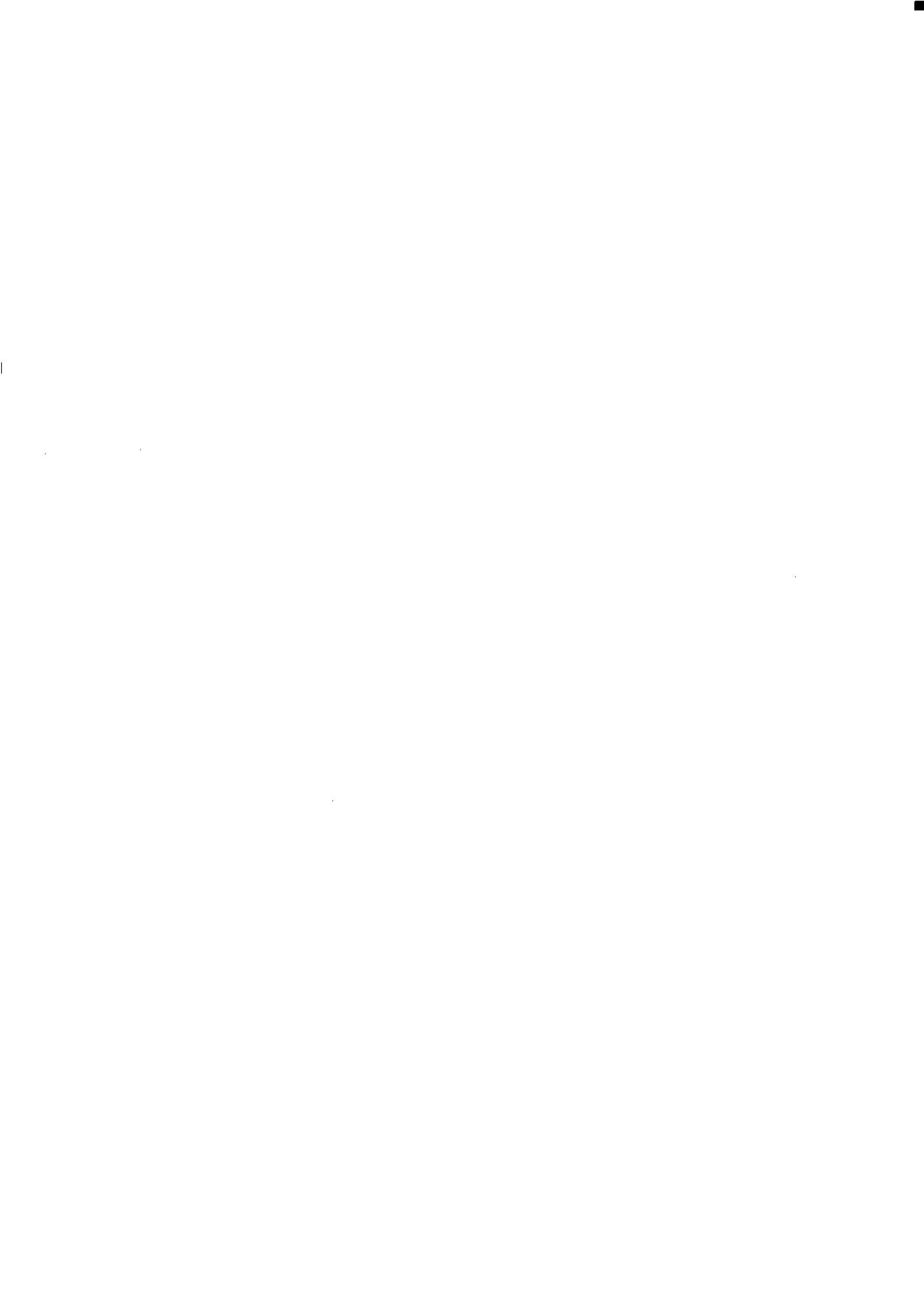
12 Publications showing the details of wells and metres drilled in petroleum exploration are available from the Petroleum Resources Branch of the Bureau of Resource Sciences.

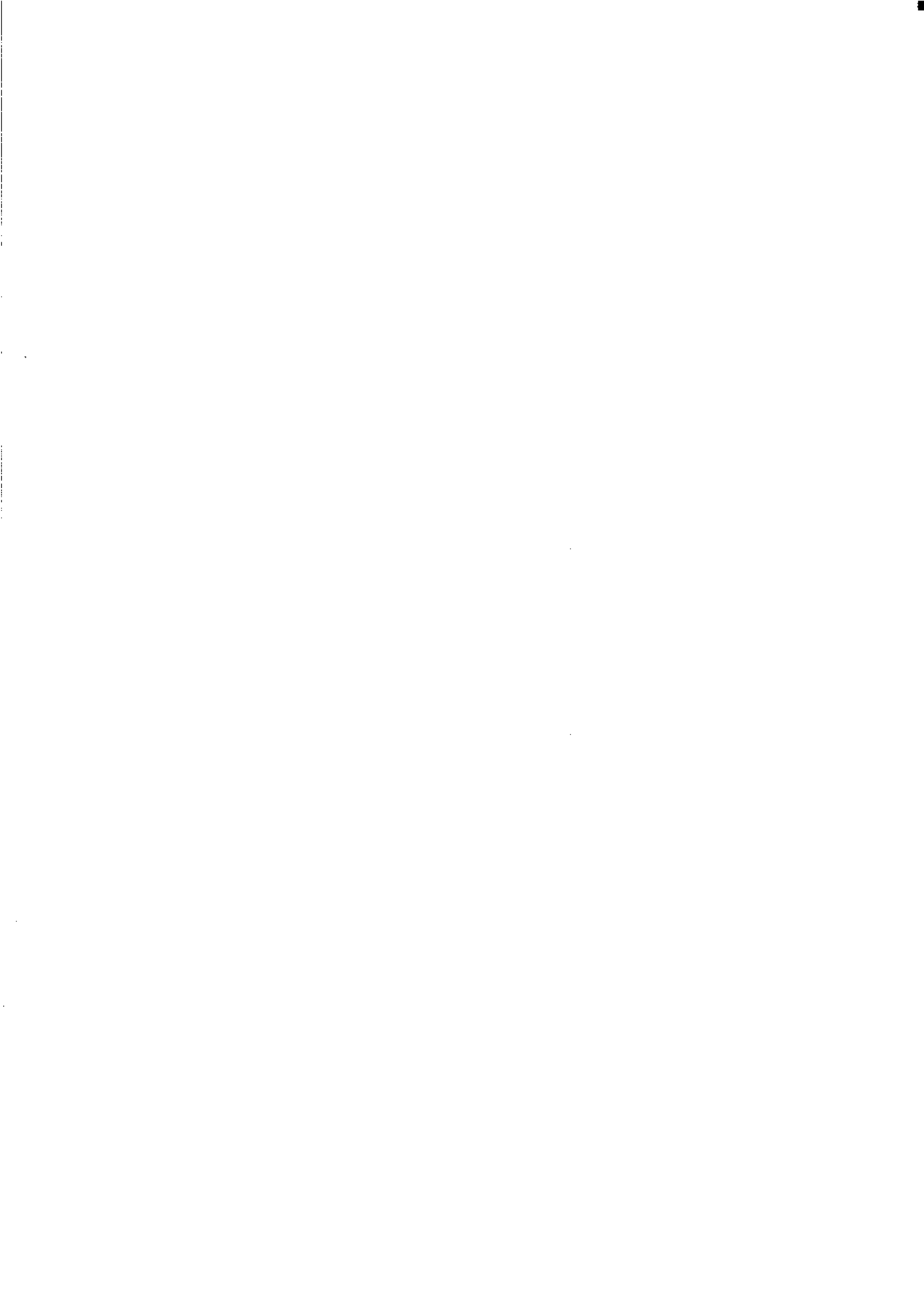
EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

13 Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and their totals. Percentage changes shown in this publication have been calculated on actual figures as reported by explorers.

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





For more information . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products available from all ABS Offices.

ABS Products and Services

Many standard products are available from ABS bookshops located in each State and Territory. In addition to these products, information tailored to the needs of clients can be obtained on a wide range of media by contacting your nearest ABS Office. The ABS also provides a Subscription Service for standard products and some tailored information services.

National Dial-a-Statistic Line

0055 86 400

Steadycorn P/L: premium rate 25c/21.4 secs.

This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year, for a range of important economic statistics including the CPI.

Internet

<http://www.statistics.gov.au>

A wide range of ABS information is available via the Internet, with basic statistics available for each State, Territory and Australia. We also have Key National Indicators, ABS product release details and other information of general interest.

Sales and Inquiries

Keylink STAT.INFO/ABS
X.400 (C:Australia,PUB:Telememo,O:ABS,FN:STAT,SN:INFO)
Internet stat.info@abs.telememo.au

National Mail Order Service (06) 252 5249
Subscription Service 1800 02 0608

	Information Inquiries	Bookshop Sales
SYDNEY	(02) 268 4611	268 4620
MELBOURNE	(03) 9615 7755	9615 7755
BRISBANE	(07) 3222 6351	3222 6350
PERTH	(09) 360 5140	360 5307
ADELAIDE	(08) 237 7100	237 7582
HOBART	(002) 205 800	205 800
CANBERRA	(06) 252 6627	207 0326
DARWIN	(089) 432 111	432 111



Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

Produced by the Australian Government Publishing Service
© Commonwealth of Australia 1996

Recommended retail price: \$13.00



2841200012954
ISSN 1033-0542