



MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 20 JUNE 2001

C O N T E N T S

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3
 TABLE	
1 Private exploration, actual and expected expenditure	7
2 Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum), expenditure and metres drilled	8
3 Mineral exploration, (other than for petroleum), expenditure, by type of lease	8
4 Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum), expenditure by state and territory	9
5 Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum), expenditure by mineral sought	10
6 Petroleum exploration expenditure	11
7 Petroleum exploration, by region	12
 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Explanatory notes	13

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Maureen Geer on Darwin 08 8943 2171, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

June 2001

19 September 2001

September 2001

19 December 2001



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.



Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

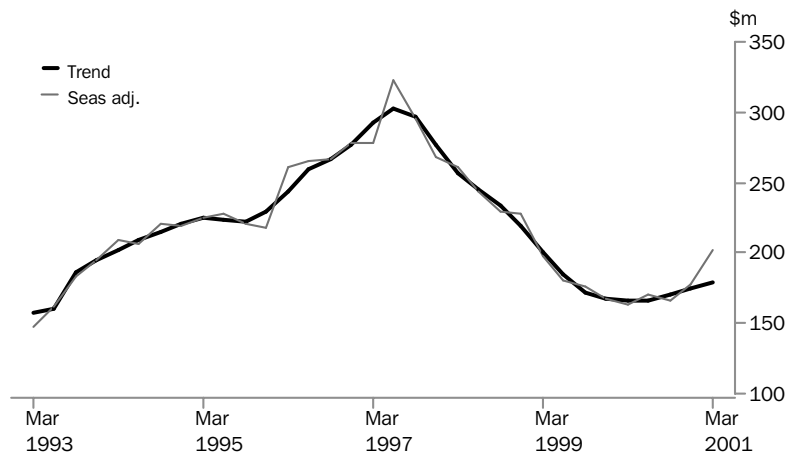
MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)

A large one-off expenditure occurred in Queensland during the March quarter 2001. This effect is included in the original and seasonally adjusted estimates, but has been excluded from the calculation of the trend estimates.

TREND ESTIMATES

The trend estimate for mineral exploration rose in the March quarter 2001, continuing the small increases that have been prevalent in the last four quarters.

The March quarter 2001 trend estimate of \$180m was 8% higher than the trend estimate of \$166m for the March quarter 2000.



In the March quarter 2001 the largest increase in the trend estimate occurred in Western Australia (up \$3m), while in Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania the estimates increased only marginally.

The trend estimate in NSW remained unchanged, while in Victoria and the Northern Territory the estimates showed small decreases.

The trend estimate for metres drilled fell slightly in the March quarter 2001. The decrease between the December quarter 2000 and the March quarter 2001 was 9,000 metres (0.6%). The March quarter 2001 figure of 1.5 million metres was 7% higher than the March quarter 2000.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

OVERVIEW

In seasonally adjusted terms, exploration expenditure for the March quarter 2001 increased by 14% (\$25m) to \$202m. Refer to the first paragraph of the summary of findings for further information.

In original terms, exploration expenditure reported for the March quarter 2001 decreased by 10% (\$19m) to \$169m. The March quarter 2001 total mineral exploration expenditure was 23% (\$32m) higher than the March quarter 2000.

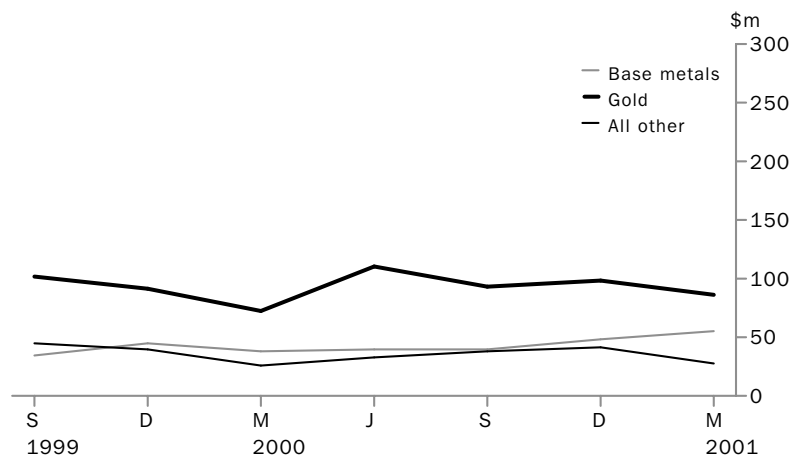
The fall in total mineral exploration in the March quarter 2001 was mainly due to a 29% (\$14m) decrease in expenditure reported on 'production leases'. The majority of the decrease on 'production leases' occurred in Western Australia, down 45% (\$16m).

Overall, Western Australia was the main contributor to the March quarter 2001 decrease, down \$24m (21%), followed by the Northern Territory, down \$8m (53%). Exploration is adversely affected by seasonal factors (the wet season) in the northern part of Australia.

In the March quarter 2001 exploration expenditure for gold fell by 11% (\$11m), diamonds by 58% (\$6m) and iron ore by 54% (\$4m). The majority of the decreases for these commodities were in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

By comparison, between the December quarter 2000 and the March quarter 2001, exploration expenditure for base metals (copper, silver-lead-zinc, nickel and cobalt) increased 13% (\$6m) to \$55m. The rise in base metals was due to a significant one-off expenditure in Queensland.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, *Original Series*



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

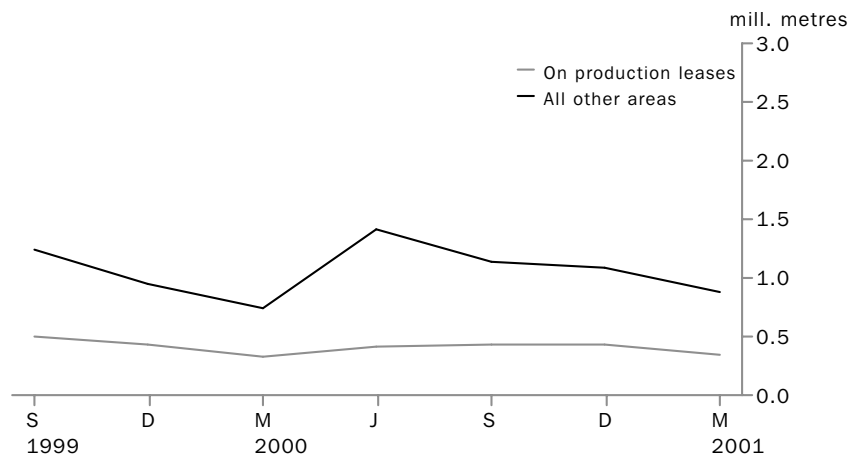
METRES DRILLED

The seasonally adjusted estimate of 1.5 million metres drilled for the March quarter 2001 was only marginally lower (0.1%) than the December quarter 2000 and 15% higher than the March quarter 2000.

In original terms, the 1.2 million metres drilled (total) reported for the March quarter 2001 was 20% lower than the December quarter 2000.

Since the December quarter 2000 drilling on 'production leases' has decreased by 22%, to 0.3 million metres, and drilling on 'all other areas' has decreased by 20%, to 0.9 million metres.

METRES DRILLED, Original Series



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

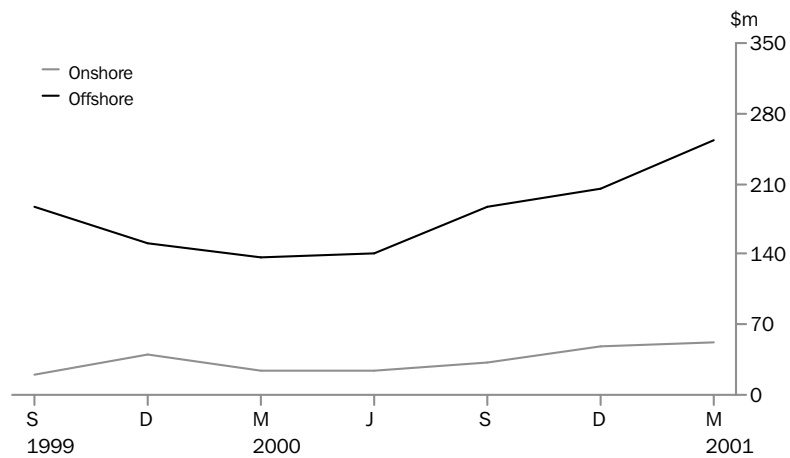
OVERVIEW

Reported expenditure on petroleum exploration in the March quarter 2001 was \$305m, 20% (\$51m) higher than the December quarter 2000, and 89% (\$144m) higher than the March quarter 2000.

Total petroleum exploration expenditure for the March quarter 2001 was the highest reported since June quarter 1998.

The increase in total petroleum exploration expenditure for the March quarter 2001 occurred mainly as a result of a 51% (\$53m) increase in offshore drilling expenditure.

Between December quarter 2000 and March quarter 2001, expenditure for petroleum exploration on 'all other areas' rose 27% (\$51m), while exploration on 'production leases' fell only slightly (down \$0.3m) to \$60m.



REGIONAL DATA

Regional data for petroleum exploration expenditure were available for Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia which, combined, contributed 81% to total exploration expenditure in the March quarter 2001.

Of the published regions, Western Australia was the main contributor, with a reported \$216m expenditure on exploration, an increase of 30% (\$50m). This is the highest reported figure for Western Australia since September quarter 1994, when the ABS began collecting petroleum exploration expenditure by state/territory. Victoria and Queensland reported falls of 23% (\$3m) and 29% (\$8m) respectively.

PRIVATE EXPLORATION, Actual and Expected Expenditure(a)

Period	MINERAL EXPLORATION ...			PETROLEUM ONSHORE ..			PETROLEUM OFFSHORE		
	Actual	Expected(b)	Actual as a proportion of expected	Actual	Expected(b)	Actual as a proportion of expected	Actual	Expected(b)	Actual as a proportion of expected
	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%
1997-1998	1 066.8	1 083.4	98.5	232.3	145.0	160.2	748.9	773.7	96.8
1998-1999	837.8	769.2	108.9	182.3	144.2	126.4	685.4	540.1	126.9
1999-2000	676.3	700.4	96.6	110.1	155.3	70.9	594.0	637.0	93.2
6 months ended December 1999	356.9	365.8	97.6	60.9	86.0	70.8	336.7	241.8	139.2
6 months ended June 2000	319.4	334.7	95.4	49.2	69.3	71.0	257.3	395.2	65.1
6 months ended December 2000	357.0	358.8	99.5	80.7	118.7	68.0	392.6	374.4	104.9
6 months ended June 2001	n.y.a	319.1	n.y.a	n.y.a	55.7	n.y.a	n.y.a	560.2	n.y.a

n.y.a. not yet available

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax. (b) Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraph 14-17.

2

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

Period	EXPENDITURE.....					METRES DRILLED.....				
	On production leases	On all other areas(b)	Total	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	On production leases	On all other areas(b)	Total	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	'000 m	'000 m	'000 m	'000 m	'000 m
1997-1998	253.2	813.6	1 066.8	..	..	3 365	7 843	11 209	..	..
1998-1999	199.1	638.7	837.8	..	..	2 404	5 697	8 101	..	..
1999-2000	158.4	517.9	676.3	..	..	1 662	4 342	6 004	..	..
1999										
June	41.7	153.3	195.0	180.1	184.1	517	1 534	2 051	1 855	1 730
September	43.9	136.2	180.1	175.5	172.2	504	1 239	1 743	1 583	1 525
December	40.2	136.7	176.9	167.3	167.6	431	948	1 379	1 385	1 459
2000										
March	36.9	99.8	136.7	162.8	165.5	319	745	1 064	1 339	1 419
June	37.4	145.3	182.7	170.1	166.1	408	1 409	1 817	1 639	1 480
September	43.3	126.5	169.8	166.2	170.3	436	1 145	1 582	1 436	1 519
December	47.2	140.0	187.2	177.1	175.1	433	1 092	1 525	1 534	1 522
2001										
March	33.6	135.0	168.6	201.7	179.5	339	879	1 218	1 536	1 513

.. not applicable.

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

(b) Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraph 9.

3

MINERAL EXPLORATION (Other than for Petroleum), Expenditure(a): March Qtr 2001

State	TYPE OF LEASE.....		
	On production leases	On all other areas(b)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m
New South Wales	1.8	11.9	13.7
Victoria	n.p.	n.p.	8.4
Queensland	4.7	33.4	38.0
South Australia	0.5	4.4	4.9
Western Australia	19.8	74.0	93.8
Tasmania	n.p.	n.p.	2.5
Northern Territory	1.0	6.1	7.2
Total	33.6	135.0	168.6

n.p. not available for publication.

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

(b) Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraph 9.

MINERAL EXPLORATION (Other than for Petroleum), Expenditure by State and Territory(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
ORIGINAL								
1997-1998	88.2	43.1	133.2	45.0	660.4	20.7	75.9	1 066.8
1998-1999	65.6	37.0	93.8	41.9	523.1	11.9	64.5	837.8
1999-2000	56.1	33.8	82.6	22.6	415.0	8.8	57.5	676.3
1999								
June	17.4	6.7	26.4	12.8	109.4	2.6	19.6	195.0
September	14.6	8.2	21.0	6.5	107.9	2.7	19.2	180.1
December	14.8	8.1	21.3	6.7	108.8	2.3	14.8	176.9
2000								
March	12.1	7.5	17.1	3.8	85.0	2.4	8.8	136.7
June	14.6	10.0	23.1	5.6	113.3	1.3	14.7	182.7
September	13.6	8.6	21.8	5.5	104.4	1.7	14.2	169.8
December	15.8	7.3	21.4	6.8	118.0	2.6	15.3	187.2
2001								
March	13.7	8.4	38.0	4.9	93.8	2.5	7.2	168.6
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
1999								
June	15.9	7.0	23.4	10.2	102.4	2.5	18.7	180.1
September	15.8	8.6	21.2	6.9	104.3	2.8	15.9	175.5
December	14.2	7.2	19.6	6.5	103.7	2.4	13.7	167.3
2000								
March	12.8	7.7	21.6	4.8	100.4	2.3	13.2	162.8
June	13.4	10.5	20.4	4.5	106.0	1.3	14.0	170.1
September	14.9	9.0	22.0	5.8	100.9	1.8	11.8	166.2
December	15.0	6.5	19.6	6.7	112.4	2.8	14.1	177.1
2001								
March	14.5	8.6	48.0	6.4	110.9	2.5	10.8	201.7
TREND								
1999								
June	16.3	8.5	23.3	8.9	108.5	3.0	15.6	184.1
September	15.2	7.6	21.6	7.8	101.5	2.7	15.8	172.2
December	14.1	7.6	20.4	6.1	102.2	2.4	14.8	167.6
2000								
March	13.4	8.6	20.7	5.0	102.5	2.0	13.3	165.5
June	13.6	9.0	20.7	5.0	102.9	1.7	13.2	166.1
September	14.4	8.8	21.1	5.6	105.5	1.9	13.0	170.3
December	14.8	8.0	22.4	6.3	108.8	2.3	12.5	175.1
2001								
March	14.8	7.5	24.2	6.6	111.7	2.7	12.0	179.5

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

MINERAL EXPLORATION (Other than for Petroleum), Expenditure by Mineral Sought(a)

	Copper	Silver, lead-zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Base metals total(b)	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Uranium	Coal	Diamonds	Other(c)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
MARCH QUARTER 2001												
New South Wales	0.8	2.4	1.1	4.3	4.3	—	2.4	—	2.2	—	0.3	13.7
Victoria	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	6.2	—	1.5	—	—	—	n.p.	8.4
Queensland	2.5	n.p.	n.p.	28.7	4.9	—	n.p.	—	3.9	—	n.p.	38.0
South Australia	1.0	1.0	—	2.0	1.1	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	0.1	4.9
Western Australia	0.6	3.7	12.3	16.6	65.2	3.4	2.0	—	n.p.	n.p.	2.8	93.8
Tasmania	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.	2.5
Northern Territory	n.p.	n.p.	—	0.8	4.2	—	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	0.4	7.2
Australia	5.8	34.1	14.7	54.6	86.3	3.4	6.8	1.1	7.6	4.1	4.6	168.6
AUSTRALIA												
1997–1998	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	227.1	648.4	30.0	14.0	22.2	64.8	42.8	17.5	1 066.8
1998–1999	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	176.9	486.1	41.5	19.0	15.4	39.9	40.9	18.0	837.8
1999–2000	28.4	55.4	73.0	156.8	374.8	29.7	21.5	11.7	35.4	29.8	16.7	676.3
June 1999	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	42.0	112.7	8.1	5.0	3.1	11.1	9.0	4.1	195.0
September 1999	6.5	16.1	11.1	33.7	101.5	8.8	4.5	4.8	9.5	12.2	5.1	180.1
December 1999	8.3	14.7	22.0	45.0	91.6	n.p.	4.8	3.7	9.2	9.2	n.p.	176.9
March 2000	6.5	10.0	21.6	38.2	71.9	5.0	4.6	n.p.	7.9	3.5	n.p.	136.7
June 2000	7.0	14.6	18.4	40.0	109.8	n.p.	7.6	n.p.	8.7	4.9	3.1	182.7
September 2000	6.9	14.9	17.1	38.9	92.5	7.2	4.9	n.p.	9.2	11.3	n.p.	169.8
December 2000	7.7	16.3	24.1	48.2	97.5	7.4	6.1	2.9	9.3	9.7	6.0	187.2
March 2001	5.8	34.1	14.7	54.6	86.3	3.4	6.8	1.1	7.6	4.1	4.6	168.6

n.p. not available for publication

— nil or rounded to zero

n.a. not available

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

(b) Base metals total is copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel, cobalt.

(c) From September quarter 2000 this category includes tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram, and construction materials.

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE(a)

Period	ONSHORE.....			OFFSHORE.....			TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....		
	<i>Drilling</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Drilling</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>On production leases</i>	<i>On all other areas(b)</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1997-1998	174.1	58.2	232.3	501.2	247.6	748.9	68.8	912.4	981.2
1998-1999	111.7	70.5	182.3	428.5	257.0	685.4	105.6	762.1	867.7
1999-2000	53.8	56.3	110.1	381.8	231.4	613.2	121.9	601.4	723.3
1999									
June	12.0	13.1	25.1	96.9	69.0	165.9	21.6	169.4	191.0
September	10.9	9.5	20.3	113.2	72.9	186.1	23.8	182.6	206.5
December	23.7	16.9	40.6	86.8	63.7	150.5	51.2	139.9	191.1
2000									
March	10.6	14.4	25.0	103.1	32.6	135.8	26.9	133.9	160.7
June	8.6	15.6	24.2	78.7	62.1	140.8	19.9	145.1	165.0
September	17.3	15.8	33.1	129.2	57.4	186.6	42.3	177.5	219.8
December	26.8	20.8	47.6	104.4	101.6	206.0	60.0	193.5	253.5
2001									
March	28.2	23.2	51.4	157.8	95.3	253.1	59.7	244.8	304.5

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

(b) Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraph 9.

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, By Region(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia(b)</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory/ Ashmore and Cartier Islands</i>	<i>Zone of Cooperation Area A(c)</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1997-1998	n.p.	34.5	107.1	n.p.	464.0	n.p.	n.p.	61.9	981.2
1998-1999	0.1	32.6	65.9	n.p.	530.8	n.p.	132.0	32.3	867.7
1999-2000	n.p.	63.2	50.6	n.p.	444.1	n.p.	88.3	45.2	723.3
1999									
June	n.p.	7.2	14.3	n.p.	127.2	n.p.	35.2	0.8	191.0
September	n.p.	n.p.	11.0	n.p.	112.0	0.2	42.4	18.5	206.5
December	—	20.9	23.2	n.p.	96.9	0.4	18.8	n.p.	191.1
2000									
March	n.p.	11.6	n.p.	n.p.	121.2	n.p.	12.6	1.6	160.7
June	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	113.9	n.p.	14.6	n.p.	165.0
September	n.p.	6.7	22.3	n.p.	148.8	n.p.	30.8	n.p.	219.8
December	n.p.	13.3	27.1	n.p.	166.3	n.p.	8.6	n.p.	253.5
2001									
March	n.p.	10.3	19.2	n.p.	216.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	304.5

n.p. not available for publication

— nil or rounded to zero

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

(b) Includes expenditure on Western Australia leases in the Zone of Cooperation, Area B.

(c) Refer to Explanatory Notes Paragraphs 18–20.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION	<p>1 This publication contains annual and quarterly statistics of private sector exploration for minerals (other than oil shale) and petroleum in Australia.</p>
SOURCE	<p>2 Data are collected and compiled from exploration censuses conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).</p>
SCOPE AND COVERAGE	<p>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, in Australia (including Australian waters).</p>
SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT	<p>4 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised.</p> <p>5 Seasonal adjustment does not remove from the series the effect of irregular or non-seasonal influences. Particular care should be taken in interpreting quarterly movements in the adjusted figures in this publication.</p> <p>6 Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.</p> <p>7 Seasonal factors are reviewed and revised annually to take account of each additional year's original data. The nature of the seasonal adjustment process is such that the magnitude of some revisions resulting from the re-analysis may be quite significant, especially for data for more recent quarters. For this reason, additional care should be exercised when interpreting movements in seasonally adjusted data for recent quarters.</p>
TREND ESTIMATES	<p>8 The trend estimates are derived by applying a 7-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. The 7-term Henderson average (like all Henderson averages) is symmetric but, as the end of a time series is approached, asymmetric forms of the average are applied. Unlike the weights of the standard 7-term Henderson moving average, the weights employed here have been tailored to suit particular characteristics of the individual series. While the asymmetric weights enable trend estimates for recent quarters to be produced, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent three quarters as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions because of changes in the original data and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors.</p> <p><i>Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series —Monitoring Trends, an Overview</i> (Cat. no. 1348.0), Time Series Analysis Canberra (02) 6252 6345.</p>
CLASSIFICATIONS	<p>9 The following categories are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Production lease/All other areas, where a <i>production lease</i> is an area on which production or development is actually taking place. <i>All other areas</i> are areas outside of a <i>production lease</i> which can include exploration leases, retention leases and areas not leased but under assessment for exploration, e.g. by airborne surveys.▪ Onshore/Offshore, where offshore includes all operations in a marine area under the <i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967</i> or under any Acts administered by State and Territory Governments.▪ Drilling/Other, where <i>drilling expenditure</i> includes cost of access (roads, vessel hire, etc.) to the drilling site and site preparation etc., and <i>other expenditure</i> includes costs of surveys, report writing, map preparation and all other activities attributable to exploration.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

DEFINITIONS

MINERALS 10 In the broad sense these comprise metallic minerals, construction materials, gemstones, other non-metallic minerals and petroleum (oil or gas).

EXPLORATION 11 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.

EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE 12 This covers all expenditure on exploration activity in Australia. It includes expenditure on aerial surveys (including Landsat photographs), general surveys, report writing, map preparation, airborne surveys, administration expenses and other activities indirectly attributable to exploration. Cash bids for offshore petroleum exploration permits are also included.

13 The value of exploration expenditure excludes the goods and services tax (GST) which came into effect on 1 July 2000. The GST replaced the wholesale sales tax (WST) which was included in the value of exploration expenditure estimates for periods up to June quarter 2000. Businesses in the collection are asked to report actual expenditure based on the expected net cost to them under The New Tax System. That is, the WST no longer applies and the exploration expenditure estimates should exclude the 10% GST where this amount can be returned to the business as a tax credit.

EXPECTED EXPENDITURE 14 This refers to expected expenditure on exploration as reported by private business' 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.

15 From the June quarter 2000 publication, the basis for the Expected Mineral Exploration Expenditure series has changed. Previously, the expected estimates released were an aggregate of data compiled through the quarterly Mineral Exploration collection. The aggregated data consistently underestimated the actual data for the same period. The consistency with which the published data underestimated subsequent actual expenditure provided a statistical basis on which to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the estimates.

16 A statistical factor is derived by examining the relationship between actual and expected exploration data. When expected exploration data is collected for the next period, the factor is applied to the raw expected total to create an estimate which better predicts actual expenditure for the same period. For more information regarding the adjustment made to the Expected Mineral Exploration Expenditure series, see the feature article in *Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia June 2000 (Cat No. 8412.0)*.

EXPLANATORY NOTES



EXPECTED EXPENDITURE **17** From the June Quarter 2000 publication, the value of expected exploration expenditure excludes the goods and services tax (GST) which came into effect on 1 July 2000. The GST replaces the wholesale sales tax (WST) which was included in the value of expected exploration expenditure. Businesses in the collection have been asked to report expected expenditure for the next six months based on the expected cost to them under The New Tax System. That is, they should exclude the WST, but not add on the 10% GST where this amount can be returned to the business as a tax credit.

continued

ZONE OF COOPERATION (ZOC) **18** The ZOC is an area in the Timor Sea, about 500 km north west of Darwin. A Treaty was signed in 1989 to enable exploration for and development of petroleum resources in this area, initially between Indonesia (and since 25 October 1999 with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on behalf of East Timor) and Australia.

19 The ZOC is divided into three areas; A, B and C. Area A is controlled by a Ministerial Council and a Joint Authority, and all petroleum operations in this area are carried out through production sharing contracts and a petroleum mining code. Negotiations are currently being held to determine each country's share in the benefits derived from production in Area A.

20 Area B is controlled by Australian authorities, but UNTAET must be notified of any changes to tenements in the area and will be paid 10% of resource rent tax revenues collected by Australia from corporations producing petroleum. Area C is controlled by UNTAET, but Australia must be notified of any changes to tenements in the area and will be paid 10% of Contractors Income Tax collected by UNTAET from corporations producing petroleum.

ASHMORE AND CARTIER ISLANDS **21** Tenements in the Ashmore and Cartier Islands are administered by the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy. Therefore all petroleum exploration expenditure in this area has been included with Northern Territory data.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS **22** Users may also wish to refer to the following priced publications which are available on request:

- *Australian Business Expectations* (Cat. no. 5250.0)
- *Australian Mining Industry* (Cat. no. 8414.0)
- *Mining, Electricity and Gas Operations, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 8401.0)
- *Mining Operations, Australia* (Cat. no. 8145.0)
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (Cat. no. 5625.0)

23 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

24 Publications showing the details of wells and metres drilled in petroleum exploration are available from the Petroleum Resources Program of the Australian Geological Survey Organisation.



EXPLANATORY NOTES

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

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

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.a. not available
n.p. not available for publication
n.y.a. not yet available
r figure or series revised since previous issue
. . not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

INFORMATION SERVICE

Data which have been published and can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user-pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

- PHONE* **1300 135 070**
- EMAIL* **client.services@abs.gov.au**
- FAX* 1300 135 211
- POST* Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney 1041

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

ABS subscription services provide regular, convenient and prompt deliveries of ABS publications and products as they are released. Email delivery of monthly and quarterly publications is available.

- PHONE* 1300 366 323
- EMAIL* subscriptions@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 03 9615 7848
- POST* Subscription Services, ABS, GPO Box 2796Y, Melbourne 3001



2841200003013
ISSN 1442-7508

RRP \$17.50