

# June Quarter 1996

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30 AM FRI 4 OCTOBER 1996

# Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration

# **Australia**



ABS Catalogue No. 8412.0

#### NOTES

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ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

September quarter 1996

20 December 1996

December quarter 1996

20 March 1997

## CHANGES IN THIS PUBLICATION

Commencing with this issue, data for total mineral exploration and metres drilled are presented as seasonally adjusted series and trend estimates, in addition to the original series, as shown in table 2 on page 8. Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraphs 5 to 9 for further information.

Also commencing with this issue, data on petroleum exploration by region have been included and can be found in table 6 on page 12.

# SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.a.

not available

n.p.

not available for publication but included in totals where applicable

n.y.a.

not yet available

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figure or series revised since previous issue

not applicable

\_\_\_

nil or rounded to zero

#### INQUIRIES

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

For further information about these statistics, contact Loucas Harous on Darwin (08) 8943 2171.

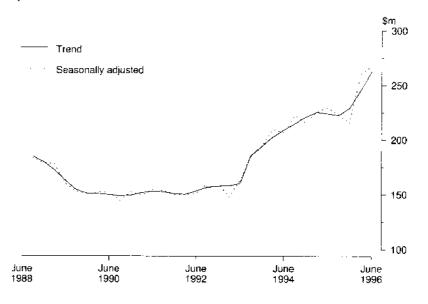
W. McLennan

Australian Statistician

### MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE (Other than for petroleum)

#### TREND ESTIMATES

The trend estimate for mineral exploration expenditure increased by 7% to \$262.6m in the June quarter 1996, continuing the strong increase in the trend evident since the June quarter 1993.



State

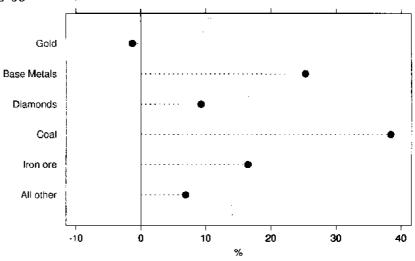
The trend estimate for mineral exploration expenditure increased across all States and Territories, with the exception of Tasmania, in the June quarter 1996. The highest increase was in the Northern Territory, up 14.4% to \$25.4m when compared with the March quarter 1996. This is the third consecutive quarter in which a rise has occurred. The trend estimate for the Northern Territory is 36.6% above the trough experienced in the September quarter 1995.

The trend estimate for mineral exploration expenditure in Queensland increased by 13.7% to \$54.7m in the June quarter 1996, the third successive quarterly increase.

1995-96 ESTIMATES

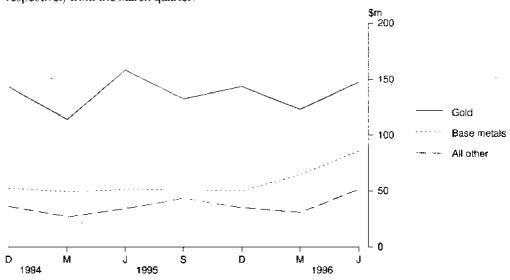
Total mineral exploration expenditure for the 1995–96 financial year was \$960.2m, an increase of \$66.9m (7.5%) from 1994–95. The major contributor to this rise was exploration for base metals which increased \$50.8m to \$251.8m and coal, up \$14.6m to \$52.6m. Exploration expenditure for gold was down \$7.4m to \$547.1m over the same period. However, gold remained the most explored commodity representing 57% of total mineral exploration expenditure in 1995–96 and 62% in 1994–95.

Change from 1994-95 to 1995-96



JUNE QUARTER

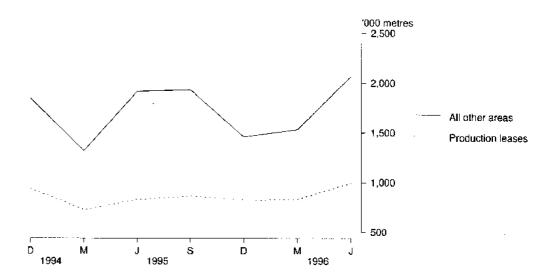
Mineral exploration for the June quarter 1996 totalled \$284.9m, an increase of 30.1% from the March quarter and 16.5% higher than the June quarter 1995. This increase was due mainly to an increase in exploration for gold and base metals, up \$24.1m and \$21.1m respectively from the March quarter.



#### METRES DRILLED

Exploration expenditure on production leases increased 11.5% in the June quarter 1996 while exploration on all other areas increased 36.3%. Exploration on other areas accounted for 78.6% of total expenditure in the June quarter. The expenditure increase was also reflected in metres drilled on all other areas, which rose 35.1% to 2.1 million metres over the same period. Total metres drilled in 1995–96 increased 1.8% from 1994–95 to 10.5 million metres.

#### Type of lease



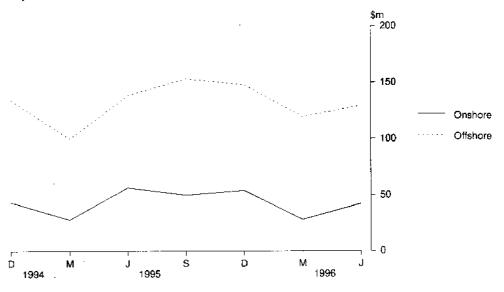
#### PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

#### OVERVIEW

Total expenditure on petroleum exploration for 1995–96 was \$725.2m, an increase of 6.3% from 1994–95. The increase was attributable to an increase in expenditure on all other areas (other than production leases) of \$69.2m (12%). This was partly offset by a 25% decrease in expenditure on production leases, down \$26.2m to \$78.8m. Areas other than production leases accounted for 89.1% of total expenditure in 1995–96. Offshore expenditure increased by \$30.5m (5.9%) to \$550.3m in 1995–96 from 1994–95, while onshore expenditure increased \$5.8m (3.4%) to \$174.8m over the same period. The majority of the expenditure in 1995–96 (75.9%) was for offshore exploration.

In the June quarter, total expenditure on petroleum exploration was \$171.9m, an increase of 16.3% from the March quarter but 12.2% down on June quarter 1995.

Onshore exploration expenditure increased 50.9% to \$42.4m from the March quarter 1996 but was \$14.5m (25.5%) lower than the June quarter 1995. Offshore exploration expenditure increased to \$129.5m (8.2%) from the March quarter.



#### REGIONAL DATA

In 1995–96, petroleum exploration expenditure in the Northern Territory/Ashmore and Cartier Islands increased \$40.4m (72.3%) to \$96.3m from 1994–95. This accounted for the majority of the total increase of \$42.8m and was due mainly to the increased exploration activity on the Laminaria project located in the Ashmore and Cartier Islands area. Expenditure in Queensland increased 28.8% to \$106.5m while exploration expenditure in Western Australia decreased \$26.6m (7.7%) to \$319m in 1995–96. Expenditure in the Zone of Cooperation Area A remained constant at \$89m for both financial years. However, expenditure increased \$11.2m (61.5%), between March and June quarters 1996.

	MINERAL EXPLORATION			PETRO	LEUM ONS	HORE	PETROLEUM OFFSHORE			
	Actual	Expected(a)	Actual as a proportion of expected	Actual	Expected(a)	Actual as a proportion of expected	Actual	Expected(a)	Actual as a proportion of expected	
Period	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%	
> : > : < : < : * * * * *	* * * * * *							· · · · · · · · ·	* * x · · · • •	
1993-94	792.6	553.0	143.3	144.5	100.1	144.4	362.2	459.2	78.9	
1994-95	893.3	768.8	116.2	169.0	120.3	140.5	519.8	592.1	87.8	
1995–96	960.2	773.6	124.1	174.8	185.6	94.2	550.3	428.0	128.6	
Six months ended						٠				
June 1995	r434.9	419.6	r <b>1</b> 03.6	r85.2	61.5	r138.5	238.7	255.8	93.3	
December 1995	r456.5	372.3	r122.6	r104.4	84.4	r123.7	301.1	r207.6	r145.0	
June 1996	503.8	401.3	125.5	70.4	101.2	69.6	249.3	220.4	113.1	
December 1996	n.y.a.	361.8	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	91.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	207.9	п.у.а.	

<sup>(</sup>a) As reported in previous collections. Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraph 14.

EXPENDITURE						METRES	RES DRILLED					
	On productio n leases	On all other areas	Total	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	On productio n leases	On all oth <del>e</del> r areas	Total	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate		
Period	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	'000 m	'000 m	'000 m	'000 m	'000 m		
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				
1995–96	208.8	751.5	960.2			3 520	6 995	10 514		- •		
1994												
September qtr	51.0	175.0	226.1	222.1	215.1	833	1 918	2 751	2 522	2 517		
December qtr	51.1	181.2	232.3	216.0	220.6	938	1 847	2 785	2 574	2 542		
1995												
March gtr	44.8	145.5	190.3	225.8	225.5	726	1 319	2 045	2 480	2 582		
June atr	55.6	189.0	244.6	229.6	224.0	832	1 917	2 749	2 739	2 602		
September qtr	r46.2	r180.9	r227.1	223.1	222.4	866	1 933	2 799	2 570	2 622		
December qtr	47.1	182.2	229.3	215.7	229.4	824	1 458	2 282	2 106	2 702		
1996												
March qtr	r54.6	164.4	r219.0	260.3	245.5	832	r1 533	r2 364	r2873	2 841		
June qtr	60.9	224.0	284.9	267.6	262.6	998	2 071	3 069	3 053	3 006		

	New South			South	Western		Northern	
	Wales	Victoria	Queensland	Australia	Australia	Tasmania	Territory	Australia
Period	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	<b>\$</b> m
	* * * *	- : > * > * *		:	* * * * * * * * *	>		a « » «
			C	RIGINAL				
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
1995-96	80.3	42.6	181.0	24.1	5 <b>1</b> 9.5	18.7	93.9	960.2
1994								
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
1995								
March gtr	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
September qtr	20.5	8.2	43.8	5.6	r125.0	2.5	r21.6	r227.1
December qtr	17.7	1 <b>1</b> .5	39.4	6.6	128.9	5.6	19.5	229.3
1996								
March qtr	19.2	10.1	40.9	5.1	r118.6	6.0	19.1	r219.0
June qtr	23.0	12.8	56.9	6.8	147.0	4.7	33.7	284.9
		*****		« » « » » « » « »	* * * * * * * *		* * * * * * * * *	* * * * * *
			SEASON	ALLY ADJUS	TED			
1994								
September qtr	19.6	7.4	42.8	4.6	124.7	3.6	19,4	222.1
December qtr	16.6	6.7	<b>4</b> 5.7	4.6	121.4	3.1	17.9	216.0
1995								20- 2
March qtr	21.8	8.7	42.4	5.8	123.7	3.5	19.9	225.8
June qtr	21.6	8.4	44.5	6.0	125.6	4.5	19.0	229.6
September qtr	21.8	9.0	41.5	5.6	r122.2	3.2	r19.8	223.1
December qtr	16.2	11.7	33.6	6.0	124.0	6.1	18.1	215.7
1996	04.4		60.4	6.4	-107.0	5.3	26.9	260.3
March qtr	21.1	9.4	53.4		r137.8	5.5 4.1	30.0	267.6
June qtr	21.8	12.5	56.4	6.2	136.6		30.0	201.0
				TREND			+ <b>+ +</b> + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +	• • • • • • •
1994				TAFIAD				
September atr	18.9	6.8	42.1	4.8	120.8	3.2	18.5	215.1
December atr	19.1	7.4	43.9	4.9	123.0	3.4	18.9	220.6
•	19.1	7.24	43.9	4.5	120.0	3.4	10.5	220.0
1995 March qtr	20.5	7.9	44,8	5.4	124.1	3.6	19.2	225.5
June gtr	21.2	7.5 8.7	42.0	5.8	123.1	3.9	19.3	224.0
September atr	20.3	9.5	39.7	5.9	123.9	4.5	18.6	222.4
December qu	19.3	10.2	42.1	6.0	127.5	5.0	19.3	229.4
1996	20.0	10.2	72.1	5.0		5.5		
March qtr	19.9	11.0	48.1	6.2	133.0	5,1	22.2	245.5
June qtr	21.0	11.6	54.7	6.3	138.7	4.9	25.4	262.6
Julio de						- · · <del>-</del>		



8.7 n.p. 27.0 n.p. 32.3 2.9 9.9 85.8 29.0 2.2 82.6 14.7 89.0	9.2 8.2 14.8 2.1 93.4 1.7 18.0 147.4 34.6 29.4 51.8 5.8 367.8	ore \$m 4.5 4.5 n.p. n.p. n.p. 13.6	sands \$m , JUNE n.p. n.p. 1.4  3.6 , n.p. n.p. n.p.	and wolfram \$m	Uranium \$m  \$m  996  n.p. n.p. n.p. n.p. n.p. n.p. n.p	Coal \$m  3.5 n.p. 13.2 n.p 17.1  11.3 n.p. 39.6 n.p.	materials	n.p. n.p. 0.1 0.2 11.7 4.9 17.3	Other \$m  0.3  n.p. 0.6  n.p. 7.8  n.p. 9.8 3.7	70tal \$m 23.0 12.8 56.9 6.8 147.0 4.7 284.9 80.3 42.6 181.0 24.1
8.7 n.p. 27.0 n.p. 32.3 2.9 9.9 85.8 29.0 2.2 82.6 14.7	9.2 8.2 14.8 2.1 93.4 1.7 18.0 147.4 34.6 29.4 51.8 5.8	4.5 	JUNE n.p. n.p. n.p. 1.4 3.6	QUARTER 19 n.p n.p. 1995–96 n.p.	096  n.p. n.p. n.p. n.p. n.p. n.p.	3.5 n.p. 13.2 — n.p. — 17.1 11.3 n.p. 39.6		n.p. n.p. 0.1 0.2 11.7 4.9 17.3	0.3 n.p. 0.6 n.p. n.p. - - 7.8	23.0 12.8 56.9 6.8 147.0 4.7 284.9 80.3 42.6 181.0
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32.3 2.9 9.9 85.8 29.0 2.2 82.6 14.7	93.4 1.7 18.0 147.4 34.6 29.4 51.8 5.8	4.5 — 4.5 n.p. n.p.	1.4 	n.p. 1995–96	n.p. n.p. n.p.	n.p. — 17.1 11.3 n.p. 39.6	 0.1   n.p.	11.7 — 4.9 17.3 	n.p.  7.8 n.p. 9.8 3.7	147.0 4.7 33.7 284.9 80.3 42.6 181.0
2.9 9.9 85.8  29.0 2.2 82.6 14.7	1.7 18.0 147.4 34.6 29.4 51.8 5.8	n.p. n.p.	л.р. п.р. п.р.	n.p. 1995–96 — n.p. n.p.	n.p. n.p.	17.1 11.3 n.p. 39.6	 0.1  n.p.	4.9 17.3 n.p. n.p.	7.8 7.8 n.p. 9.8 3.7	4.7 33.7 284.9 80.3 42.6 181.0
9.9 85.8 29.0 2.2 82.6 14.7	18.0 147.4 34.6 29.4 51.8 5.8	n.p. n.p. n.p.	3.6 	n.p. 1995–96 — n.p. n.p.	n.p. n.p. 	17.1 11.3 n.p. 39.6	0.1 	4.9 17.3 n.p. n.p. n.p.	7.8 7.8 n.p. 9.8 3.7	33.7 284.9 80.3 42.6 181.0
29.0 2.2 82.6 14.7	34.6 29.4 51.8 5.8	4.5  n.p. n.p. n.p.	3.6  n.p. n.p. n.p.	n.p. 1995–96	n.p.	17.1 11.3 n.p. 39.6	0.1 	17.3  n.p. n.p. n.p.	7.8 n.p. 9.8 3.7	284.9 80.3 42.6 181.0
29.0 2.2 82.6 14.7	34.6 29.4 51.8 5.8	n.p. n.p. n.p.	п.р. п.р. п.р.	1995–96 — n.p.		11.3 n.p. 39.6		n.p. n.p. n.p.	n.p. 9.8 3.7	80.3 42.6 181.0
2.2 82.6 14.7	29.4 51.8 5.8	n.p. n.p. —	n.p. n.p.	  n.p. 	n.p.	n.p. 39.6	<u> —</u> п.р.	n.p. n.p.	9.8 3.7	42.6 181.0
2.2 82.6 14.7	29.4 51.8 5.8	n.p. n.p. —	n.p. n.p.	<u>-</u>	n.p.	n.p. 39.6	<u> —</u> п.р.	n.p. n.p.	9.8 3.7	42.6 181.0
2.2 82.6 14.7	29.4 51.8 5.8	n.p. n.p. —	n.p. n.p.	<u>-</u>	n.p.	n.p. 39.6	<u> —</u> п.р.	n.p. n.p.	9.8 3.7	42.6 181.0
82.6 14.7	51.8 5.8	n.p. —	n.p.	<u>-</u>		39.6	n.p.	n.p.	3.7	181.0
14.7	5.8	_	<u> </u>	<u>-</u>						
					т.р.		n.p.	1.3		
05.0	301.0	10.0			n.p.	n. <b>p</b> .	п.р.	33.8	7.5	519.5
9.6	8.8			n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.		-	18.7
24.7	48.9		п.р.	п.р. п.р.	4.6	п.р.	т.р.	15.4	n.p.	93.9
251.8	547.1	14.1	9.3	0.6	7.2	52.6	0.7	52. <b>9</b>	23.8	960.2
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				AUSTRALIA						
191.6	453.7	18.8	8.5	1.1	7.6	27.7	1.3	58.7	23.5	792.6
201.0	554.5	12.1	5.8	1.1	7.8	38.0	0.9	48.4	23.5	893.3
251.8	547.1	14.1	9.3	0.6	7.2	52.6	0.7	52.9	23.8	960.2
47.8	138.2	2.9	1.9	0.1	2.1	10.7	0.1	17.0	5.2	226.1
52.5	143.5	2.5	1.8	0.4	1.7	10.6	0.2	12.5	6.5	232.3
		-								
49.2	114.2	1.4	1.5	0.2	1.8	7.4	0.2	8.6	5.8	190.3
51.5	158.6	5.3	0.6	0.4	2.2	9.3	0.4	10.3	6.1	244.6
							0.6	15.3	r5.9	r227.1
	143.7	1.1	1.6	0.2	2.3	12.1	_	11.9	5.9	229.3
			•			<u></u>			•	
	123.3	3.6	2.0	n.p	n.a.	10.8	_	8.4	4.4	r219.0
r64.7				•						284.9
	52.5 49.2 51.5 r50.8 50.5 r64.7	52.5 143.5 49.2 114.2 51.5 158.6 r50.8 r132.7 50.5 143.7	52.5     143.5     2.5       49.2     114.2     1.4       51.5     158.6     5.3       r50.8     r132.7     4.9       50.5     143.7     1.1       r64.7     123.3     3.6	52.5     143.5     2.5     1.8       49.2     114.2     1.4     1.5       51.5     158.6     5.3     0.6       r50.8     r132.7     4.9     2.1       50.5     143.7     1.1     1.6       r64.7     123.3     3.6     2.0	52.5     143.5     2.5     1.8     0.4       49.2     114.2     1.4     1.5     0.2       51.5     158.6     5.3     0.6     0.4       r50.8     r132.7     4.9     2.1     0.1       50.5     143.7     1.1     1.6     0.2       r64.7     123.3     3.6     2.0     n.p.	52.5     143.5     2.5     1.8     0.4     1.7       49.2     114.2     1.4     1.5     0.2     1.8       51.5     158.6     5.3     0.6     0.4     2.2       r50.8     r132.7     4.9     2.1     0.1     2.1       50.5     143.7     1.1     1.6     0.2     2.3       r64.7     123.3     3.6     2.0     n.p.     n.p.     n.p.	52.5     143.5     2.5     1.8     0.4     1.7     10.6       49.2     114.2     1.4     1.5     0.2     1.8     7.4       51.5     158.6     5.3     0.6     0.4     2.2     9.3       r50.8     r132.7     4.9     2.1     0.1     2.1     12.7       50.5     143.7     1.1     1.6     0.2     2.3     12.1       r64.7     123.3     3.6     2.0     n.p.     n.p.     n.p.     10.8	52.5     143.5     2.5     1.8     0.4     1.7     10.6     0.2       49.2     114.2     1.4     1.5     0.2     1.8     7.4     0.2       51.5     158.6     5.3     0.6     0.4     2.2     9.3     0.4       r50.8     r132.7     4.9     2.1     0.1     2.1     12.7     0.6       50.5     143.7     1.1     1.6     0.2     2.3     12.1     —       r64.7     123.3     3.6     2.0     n.p.     n.p.     10.8     —	52.5     143.5     2.5     1.8     0.4     1.7     10.6     0.2     12.5       49.2     114.2     1.4     1.5     0.2     1.8     7.4     0.2     8.6       51.5     158.6     5.3     0.6     0.4     2.2     9.3     0.4     10.3       r50.8     r132.7     4.9     2.1     0.1     2.1     12.7     0.6     15.3       50.5     143.7     1.1     1.6     0.2     2.3     12.1     —     11.9       r64.7     123.3     3.6     2.0     n.p.     n.p.     10.8     —     8.4	52.5     143.5     2.5     1.8     0.4     1.7     10.6     0.2     12.5     6.5       49.2     114.2     1.4     1.5     0.2     1.8     7.4     0.2     8.6     5.8       51.5     158.6     5.3     0.6     0.4     2.2     9.3     0.4     10.3     6.1       r60.8     r132.7     4.9     2.1     0.1     2.1     12.7     0.6     15.3     r5.9       50.5     143.7     1.1     1.6     0.2     2.3     12.1     —     11.9     5.9       r64.7     123.3     3.6     2.0     n.p.     n.p.     10.8     —     8.4     4.4

	ONSHORE		OFFSHO	)RE		TOTAL EXPENDITURE			
	Drilling	Other	Total	Dritting	Other	Total	On productio n leases	On all other areas	Total
Period	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1993-94	84.4	60.0	144.5	20 <b>8.</b> 0	154.2	362.2	70.1	436.5	• • • • • 50 <del>6</del> .7
1994-95	85.6	83,5	169.0	384.9	134.9	519.8	105.0	577.3	682.4
1995-96	95.5	79.4	174.8	355.0	195.3	550.3	78.8	646.5	725.2
1994									
September qtr	26.0	15.8	41.7	108.5	30.2	138.7	28.9	151.5	180.5
December qtr	18.0	25.8	43.7	99.1	35.2	134.3	26.2	151.8	178.0
1995									
March qtr	<b>11</b> .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
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
1996									
March qtr	13.6	14.5	28.1	r68.1	r51.6	r119.7	18.9	r <b>128</b> .9	r147.8
June qtr	22.3	20.1	42.4	62.6	66.9	129.5	22.6	149.3	171.9

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia(a)	Tasmania	Northern Territory/ Ashmore and Cartier Islands	Zone of Cooperation Area A(b)	Total
Period	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *			>						
1994–95	n.p.	n.p.	82.7	46.7	345.6	n.p.	55.9	89.4	682.4
1995–96	n,p,	n.p.	106.5	55.1	319.0	n.p.	96.3	89.2	725.2
1994									
September qtr	n.p.	n.p.	18.4	12.3	99.1	_	14.6	27.1	180.5
December qtr	n.p.	n.p.	21.1	12.6	91.7	n.p.	11.9	26.0	178.0
1995									
March qtr	n.p.	n.p.	16.9	7.4	<b>65</b> .6	п.р.	7.6	17.6	128.2
June qtr	n.p.	n.p.	26.3	14.4	89.2	п.р.	21.8	18.6	195.7
September qtr	n.p.	n.p.	34.5	18.3	88.5	n.p.	17.0	20.4	203.2
December qtr	n.p.	n.p.	32.8	13.8	75.7	_	45.8	21.3	202.3
1996									
March qtr	_	n.p.	16.7	9.6	74.6	_	17.4	18.2	147.8
June qtr	_	n.p.	22.5	13.4	80.3		16.0	29.4	171.9

<sup>(</sup>a) Includes expenditure on Western Australian leases in the Zone of Cooperation Area B,

<sup>(</sup>b) Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraph 15.

#### 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.

#### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

- **5** 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.
- **6** Scasonal 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.
- **7** Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.
- **8** 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.

#### TREND ESTIMATES

**9** 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. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series* — *Monitoring "Trends": an Overview* (1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (06) 252 6345.

#### CLASSIFICATIONS

- **10** 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 and Territory 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

- **11** Minerals: In the broad sense these comprise metallic minerals, construction materials, gemstones, other non-metallic minerals and petroleum (oil or gas).
- **12** 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.
- **13** 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.
- **14** 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.
- **15** Zone of Cooperation (ZOC): Is an agreement between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia on an area between the Indonesian Province of East Timor and Northern Australia. The ZOC is divided into three areas A. B and C. Area A is controlled by a joint authority and all petroleum operations in this area are carried out through production sharing contracts. Area B is controlled by Australian authorities but the Republic of Indonesia must be notified of any changes to tenements in the area and be paid 10% of gross Resource Rent Tax collected by Australia from corporations producing petroleum. Area C is controlled by the Republic of Indonesian authorities but Australia must be notified of any changes to tenements in the area and to pay Australia 10% of Contractors Income Tax collected by the Republic of Indonesia from corporations producing petroleum.
- **16** Ashmore and Cartier Islands: 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

**17** Users may also wish to refer to the following priced publication which are available on request:

Australian Mining Industry (8414.0)

Australian Business Expectations (5250.0)

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

- **18** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (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.
- **19** 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.

#### EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

**20** 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.

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