

**MINERAL AND PETROLEUM
EXPLORATION**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 29 FEB 2016

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NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE (Quarter)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
March 2016	30 May 2016
June 2016	29 August 2016
September 2016	28 November 2016
December 2016	27 February 2017

CHANGES TO THIS ISSUE

- There are no changes to this issue

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
GST	goods and services tax
JPDA	Joint Petroleum Development Area
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
WST	wholesale sales tax
ZOC	Zone of Cooperation

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

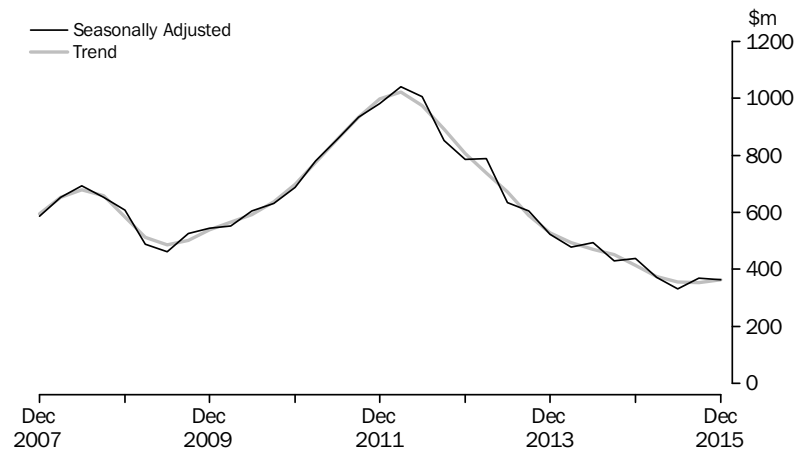
MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

The trend estimate for total mineral exploration expenditure rose 2.7% (\$9.7m) to \$364.1m in the December quarter 2015. The largest contributor to the rise in the trend estimate this quarter was Western Australia (up 3.1%, \$6.5m). The current quarter estimate is 12.3% lower than the December quarter 2014 estimate.

The seasonally adjusted estimate for mineral exploration expenditure fell 1.4% (-\$5.0m) to \$365.3m in the December quarter 2015. The largest contributor to the fall this quarter was Western Australia (down 2.1%, -\$4.6m).

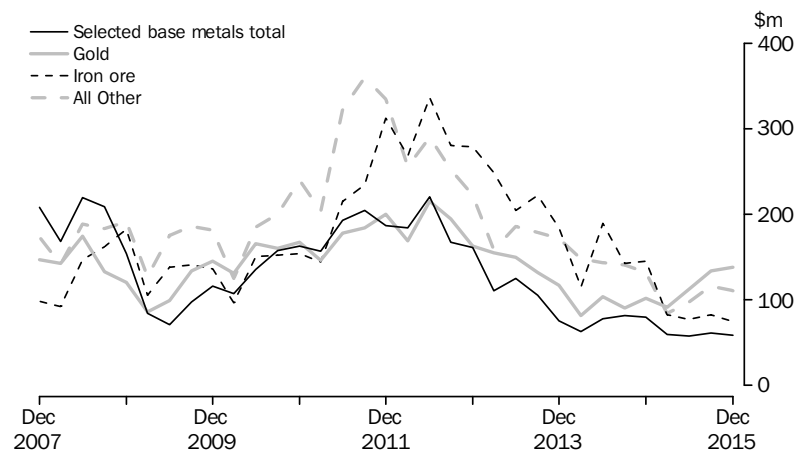
MINERAL EXPLORATION, Seasonally adjusted and trend



In original terms, mineral exploration expenditure fell 3.0% (-\$12.0m) to \$382.0m in the December quarter 2015. Exploration on areas of new deposits fell 7.8% (-\$9.0m) and expenditure on areas of existing deposits fell 1.1% (-\$3.0m).

In original terms, the largest decrease by minerals sought came from expenditure on iron ore (down 9.4%, -\$7.7m). Another large decrease came from expenditure on uranium (down 30.5%, -\$4.7m).

MINERAL EXPLORATION, ORIGINAL SERIES



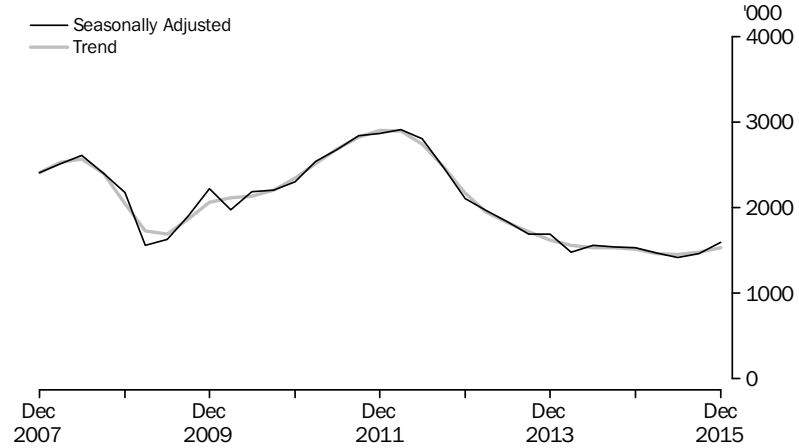
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

METRES DRILLED

The trend estimate for metres drilled rose 3.7% in the December quarter 2015. The current quarter estimate is 1.1% higher than the December quarter 2014 estimate.

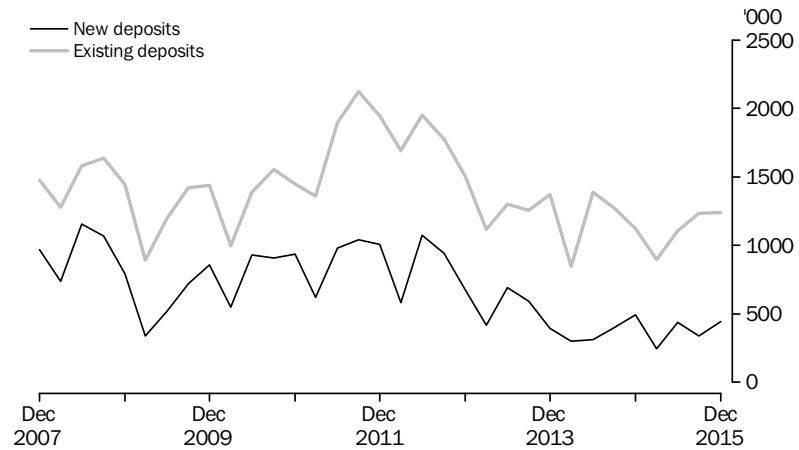
The seasonally adjusted estimate for metres drilled rose 9.0% in the December quarter 2015.

METRES DRILLED, Seasonally adjusted and trend



In original terms, metres drilled rose 6.9%. Drilling in areas of new deposits rose 29.6% and drilling in areas of existing deposits rose 0.6%.

METRES DRILLED, ORIGINAL SERIES



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

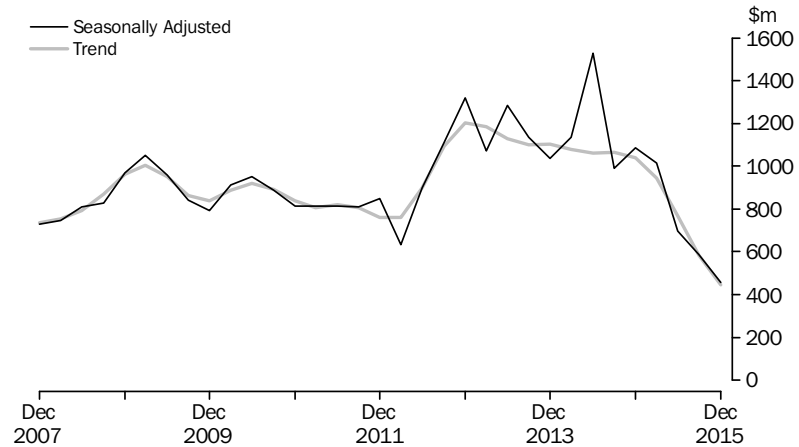
TOTAL EXPENDITURE

The trend estimate for total petroleum exploration expenditure fell 23.9% (-\$139.9m) to \$445.7m in the December quarter 2015. Exploration expenditure on production leases fell 5.4% (-\$7.5m), while exploration expenditure on all other areas fell 24.3% (-\$108.1m).

The seasonally adjusted estimate for total petroleum exploration expenditure fell 22.5% (-\$132.1m) to \$455.5m in the December quarter 2015. Exploration expenditure on production leases fell 16.0% (-\$24.8m) and exploration expenditure on all other areas fell 24.8% (-\$107.3m).

The largest contributor to the decrease in the trend estimate was Queensland (down 35.1%, -\$33.6m) and the largest contributor to the fall in the seasonally adjusted estimate was Western Australia (down 17.6%, -\$70.5m).

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, Seasonally adjusted and trend



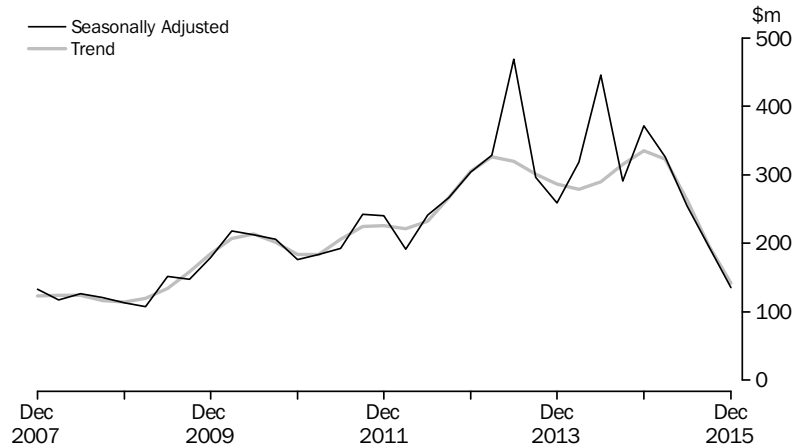
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

ONSHORE

The trend estimate for onshore petroleum exploration expenditure fell 27.8% (-\$54.4m) to \$141.2m in the December quarter 2015. Expenditure on drilling fell 40.7% (-\$45.0m), while other onshore petroleum exploration expenditure fell 9.8% (-\$8.3m).

The seasonally adjusted estimate for onshore petroleum exploration expenditure fell 30.5% (-\$59.4m) to \$135.6m in the December quarter 2015. Expenditure on drilling fell 43.9% (-\$45.4m), and other onshore petroleum exploration fell 15.3% (-\$14.0m).

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION: ONSHORE, Seasonally adjusted and trend

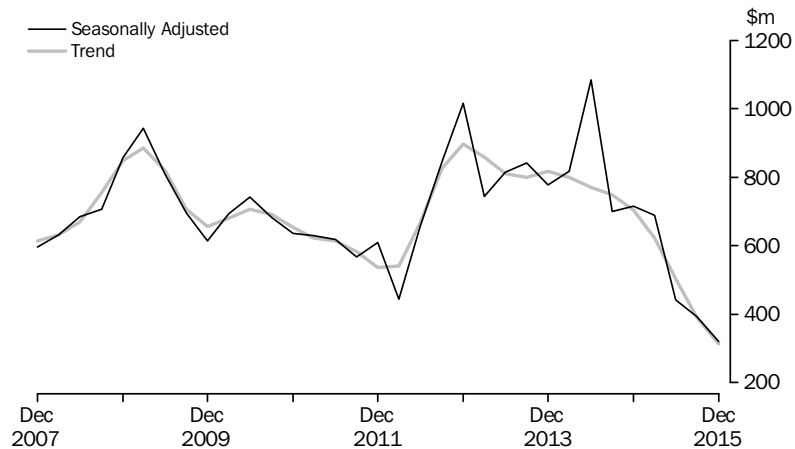


OFFSHORE

The trend estimate for offshore petroleum exploration expenditure fell 19.8% (-\$77.1m) to \$312.5m in the December quarter 2015. Expenditure on drilling fell 25.1% (-\$63.6m), while other offshore petroleum exploration expenditure fell 10.0% (-\$13.6m).

The seasonally adjusted estimate for offshore petroleum exploration expenditure fell 18.5% (-\$72.7m) to \$319.9m in the December quarter 2015. Expenditure on drilling fell 22.5% (-\$57.4m), and other offshore petroleum exploration expenditure fell 11.1% (-\$15.3m).

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION: OFFSHORE, Seasonally adjusted and trend



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PRIVATE EXPLORATION, Actual and Expected Expenditure

Period	MINERAL EXPLORATION					PETROLEUM ONSHORE			PETROLEUM OFFSHORE		
	Actual	Expected	Actual as a proportion of expected	Expected Adjusted	Actual as a proportion of expected - Adjusted(a)	Actual	Expected	Actual as a proportion of expected	Actual	Expected	Actual as a proportion of expected
	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%
2012-13	3 055.4	3 086.3	99.0	3 303.8	92.5	1 363.2	2 971.2	45.9	3 430.2	1 135.3	302.1
2013-14	2 108.9	2 445.1	86.2	2 638.9	79.9	1 312.5	2 819.6	46.6	3 512.0	2 003.3	175.3
2014-15	1 578.7	1 500.0	105.3	1 684.2	93.7	1 254.3	2 257.6	55.6	2 537.3	1 665.6	152.3
2014-15											
Dec half	916.9	864.6	106.1	976.1	93.9	729.7	1 438.9	50.7	1 403.4	1 149.3	122.1
Jun half	661.8	635.4	104.2	708.1	93.5	524.6	818.7	64.1	1 133.9	516.3	219.6
2015-16											
Dec half	776.8	606.5	128.1	720.9	107.8	357.7	432.5	82.7	707.2	376.3	187.9
Jun half	nya	641.8	nya	714.9	nya	nya	579.6	nya	nya	136.6	nya

nya not yet available

(a) Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraphs 15-17.

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MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum)—Expenditure and metres drilled

Period	EXPENDITURE					METRES DRILLED				
	New deposits	Existing deposits	Total	Seasonally Adjusted Total	Trend Total	New deposits	Existing deposits	Total	Seasonally Adjusted Total	Trend Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
2012-13	1 018.3	2 037.1	3 055.4	..	..	2 730	5 690	8 420	..	..
2013-14	682.3	1 426.5	2 108.8	..	..	1 598	4 856	6 453	..	..
2014-15	485.0	1 091.0	1 575.0	..	..	1 569	4 395	5 963	..	..
2013-14										
March	121.0	287.0	408.0	477.0	493.4	300	848	1 148	1 473	1 554
June	144.0	371.0	515.0	493.8	469.5	309	1 386	1 695	1 559	1 532
2014-15										
September	129.0	326.0	455.0	431.1	451.2	397	1 272	1 669	1 540	1 533
December	151.0	308.0	459.0	438.2	415.0	492	1 121	1 613	1 532	1 518
March	91.0	227.0	317.0	370.7	375.8	242	899	1 141	1 469	1 463
June	114.0	230.0	344.0	332.2	357.0	438	1 103	1 540	1 417	1 449
2015-16										
September	115.0	279.0	394.0	370.3	354.4	341	1 233	1 573	1 458	1 480
December	106.0	276.0	382.0	365.3	364.1	442	1 240	1 682	1 589	1 535

.. not applicable

MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum)—Expenditure by type of deposit

Period	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australia
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
NEW DEPOSITS								
2012-13	50.6	12.5	223.8	102.4	573.8	16.6	38.6	1 018.3
2013-14	46.3	9.2	161.0	52.8	381.0	8.2	23.2	682.3
2014-15	39.5	6.1	108.7	45.5	250.8	7.5	27.5	485.0
2013-14								
March	14.9	2.7	32.7	10.7	53.3	2.3	4.2	121.0
June	5.6	2.5	24.4	12.6	92.9	0.7	4.8	144.0
2014-15								
September	8.7	np	24.8	14.6	69.9	np	7.8	129.0
December	10.3	1.6	41.7	14.0	73.9	2.0	7.3	151.0
March	10.7	0.8	17.8	10.8	43.3	2.0	5.5	91.0
June	9.7	np	24.4	6.1	63.7	np	7.0	114.0
2015-16								
September	11.6	2.1	21.3	6.0	60.6	1.3	11.9	115.0
December	5.5	5.4	16.9	7.6	62.8	0.5	7.0	106.0
EXISTING DEPOSITS								
2012-13	136.7	26.0	439.9	128.0	1 189.6	23.9	92.9	2 037.1
2013-14	92.6	23.4	290.4	63.5	839.0	21.9	95.1	1 426.5
2014-15	83.0	16.7	202.6	41.3	666.6	12.4	68.3	1 091.0
2013-14								
March	25.8	5.2	67.5	14.1	153.0	4.1	17.2	287.0
June	22.3	6.3	74.4	16.4	216.8	4.9	29.7	371.0
2014-15								
September	25.9	np	62.8	10.7	197.2	np	19.6	326.0
December	22.1	3.5	61.2	13.5	188.4	2.2	17.6	308.0
March	19.0	4.9	35.1	11.3	139.9	2.4	14.0	227.0
June	16.0	np	43.5	5.7	141.0	np	17.2	230.0
2015-16								
September	17.8	4.3	55.3	5.0	172.5	2.6	21.5	279.0
December	28.8	2.8	57.0	5.4	159.8	1.9	20.5	276.0
TOTAL								
2012-13	187.4	38.6	663.7	230.4	1 763.4	40.5	131.6	3 055.4
2013-14	138.9	32.6	451.4	116.3	1 220.0	30.1	118.3	2 108.8
2014-15	122.1	22.8	311.3	86.7	917.3	19.9	95.7	1 575.0
2013-14								
March	40.7	7.9	100.2	24.8	206.2	6.4	21.4	408.0
June	27.9	8.8	98.8	29.1	309.7	5.6	34.5	515.0
2014-15								
September	34.6	5.6	87.6	25.3	267.1	7.5	27.3	455.0
December	32.4	5.1	102.9	27.5	262.3	4.2	24.8	459.0
March	29.7	5.8	52.9	22.2	183.2	4.4	19.4	317.0
June	25.4	6.4	67.9	11.7	204.8	3.8	24.2	344.0
2015-16								
September	29.4	6.4	76.6	11.0	233.1	3.9	33.4	394.0
December	34.3	8.2	73.9	13.0	222.6	2.3	27.5	382.0

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum)—Expenditure by state and territory

<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>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL								
2012-13	187.4	38.6	663.7	230.4	1 763.4	40.5	131.6	3 055.4
2013-14	138.9	32.6	451.4	116.3	1 220.0	30.1	118.3	2 108.8
2014-15	122.1	22.8	311.3	86.7	917.3	19.9	95.7	1 575.0
2013-14								
March	40.7	7.9	100.2	24.8	206.2	6.4	21.4	408.0
June	27.9	8.8	98.8	29.1	309.7	5.6	34.5	515.0
2014-15								
September	34.6	5.6	87.6	25.3	267.1	7.5	27.3	455.0
December	32.4	5.1	102.9	27.5	262.3	4.2	24.8	459.0
March	29.7	5.8	52.9	22.2	183.2	4.4	19.4	317.0
June	25.4	6.4	67.9	11.7	204.8	3.8	24.2	344.0
2015-16								
September	29.4	6.4	76.6	11.0	233.1	3.9	33.4	394.0
December	34.3	8.2	73.9	13.0	222.6	2.3	27.5	382.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2013-14								
March	40.1	7.9	123.2	28.8	240.5	6.6	29.9	477.0
June	28.8	8.8	94.6	27.1	294.5	5.9	34.2	493.8
2014-15								
September	34.7	5.6	82.6	26.9	252.4	6.7	22.2	431.1
December	31.9	5.1	95.2	24.4	253.4	4.4	23.9	438.2
March	29.1	5.8	64.6	25.6	214.3	4.5	26.8	370.7
June	26.3	6.4	65.4	11.0	195.2	4.0	23.9	332.2
2015-16								
September	29.6	6.4	72.4	11.7	219.6	3.4	27.3	370.3
December	33.6	8.2	68.0	11.5	215.0	2.4	26.7	365.3
TREND								
2013-14								
March	34.3	8.2	110.4	28.7	274.1	7.1	30.6	493.4
June	33.9	7.6	100.6	27.7	264.0	6.4	29.4	469.5
2014-15								
September	32.6	6.3	90.4	26.9	262.8	5.7	26.5	451.2
December	31.0	5.5	80.4	25.3	243.4	5.1	24.3	415.0
March	29.2	5.4	73.4	20.9	218.0	4.5	24.4	375.8
June	28.2	6.2	68.3	15.6	209.2	3.9	25.8	357.0
2015-16								
September	29.6	6.9	67.4	11.7	209.2	3.3	26.2	354.4
December	31.6	7.6	69.9	10.0	215.7	2.7	26.6	364.1

MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum)—Expenditure by mineral sought

SELECTED BASE METALS

Period	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Total	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Uranium	Coal	Diamonds	Other(a)	Total Mineral Exploration
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
NEW SOUTH WALES												
2012-13	26.7	np	np	54.9	36.8	np	np	np	74.8	np	16.5	187.4
2013-14	20.4	np	np	32.6	25.6	np	np	np	60.2	np	16.8	138.9
2014-15	np	16.2	np	40.7	23.5	np	np	—	45.0	0.2	10.0	122.1
2013-14												
March	7.4	np	np	10.7	6.6	np	np	—	18.4	np	3.7	40.7
June	4.9	2.7	np	7.6	5.1	np	np	np	10.2	np	4.3	27.9
2014-15												
September	5.2	np	np	8.2	7.9	np	np	—	16.8	np	1.5	34.6
December	np	5.7	np	12.5	6.9	np	np	—	9.8	np	2.8	32.4
March	6.2	np	np	9.9	4.7	—	np	—	9.9	np	3.9	29.7
June	6.1	np	np	10.2	4.0	np	np	—	8.4	np	1.7	25.4
2015-16												
September	6.5	np	np	10.2	5.1	np	np	—	11.1	np	1.5	29.4
December	6.1	np	np	10.0	3.9	np	np	—	np	np	1.2	34.3
VICTORIA												
2012-13	np	np	np	5.1	19.5	np	4.7	—	np	—	5.6	38.6
2013-14	1.3	np	np	1.8	15.0	5.4	3.5	—	np	—	6.6	32.6
2014-15	0.4	0.2	np	np	12.8	np	3.9	—	0.1	—	4.6	22.8
2013-14												
March	np	np	np	0.4	2.3	np	np	—	np	—	1.6	7.9
June	np	np	np	0.4	4.1	np	np	—	np	—	2.0	8.8
2014-15												
September	np	np	np	0.2	1.9	np	np	—	np	—	2.0	5.6
December	np	np	np	0.2	3.0	np	np	—	np	—	1.2	5.1
March	np	np	—	0.1	np	np	1.2	—	np	—	0.8	5.8
June	np	np	—	np	np	np	1.2	—	np	—	0.7	6.4
2015-16												
September	np	np	—	np	np	np	np	—	np	—	0.9	6.4
December	np	np	—	np	np	np	np	—	np	—	1.2	8.2
QUEENSLAND												
2012-13	91.1	10.7	3.1	104.8	74.6	np	1.6	10.8	453.9	np	15.7	663.7
2013-14	36.7	np	np	43.9	60.9	0.2	np	7.8	324.2	np	12.3	451.4
2014-15	41.9	9.4	0.3	51.6	43.2	0.2	np	3.4	199.9	np	10.5	311.3
2013-14												
March	5.1	np	np	6.9	9.4	np	np	0.9	80.9	np	1.6	100.2
June	8.3	np	np	10.3	15.0	0.1	np	np	67.6	np	3.5	98.8
2014-15												
September	11.3	np	np	14.4	7.6	—	np	0.9	61.3	np	2.3	87.6
December	11.7	np	np	14.7	18.1	0.1	np	1.0	65.2	np	3.4	102.9
March	8.4	np	np	9.6	8.0	—	np	0.6	32.6	np	1.7	52.9
June	10.5	np	np	12.9	9.6	—	np	0.9	40.8	np	3.2	67.9
2015-16												
September	11.0	5.6	0.1	16.6	11.9	np	np	0.7	43.8	np	3.4	76.6
December	10.6	np	np	13.1	12.5	np	0.3	0.3	43.5	np	3.8	73.9

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) From September quarter 2000 Publication tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram and construction materials were added to this category.

continued

SELECTED BASE METALS

Period	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Total	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Uranium	Coal	Diamonds	Other(a)	Total Mineral Exploration
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
SOUTH AUSTRALIA												
2012-13	106.4	np	np	125.6	np	47.9	np	np	1.0	np	17.6	230.4
2013-14	52.0	9.7	2.6	64.3	np	np	np	4.8	np	np	9.4	116.3
2014-15	37.2	5.7	2.6	45.5	np	np	np	np	np	np	7.6	86.7
2013-14												
March	15.4	np	np	17.6	np	2.2	np	0.6	np	np	2.7	24.8
June	14.7	1.3	0.5	16.6	np	7.9	np	0.8	np	np	2.4	29.1
2014-15												
September	12.1	1.4	0.4	14.0	np	5.4	np	1.2	np	np	2.0	25.3
December	10.6	2.0	0.9	13.4	1.6	np	np	np	np	np	1.6	27.5
March	10.4	0.9	0.7	12.0	1.8	5.2	np	0.3	np	np	2.0	22.2
June	4.0	1.4	0.7	6.1	1.1	0.9	np	0.8	np	np	2.1	11.7
2015-16												
September	2.6	1.6	0.5	4.7	0.8	np	0.5	0.6	—	np	1.6	11.0
December	4.4	1.5	0.8	6.7	2.1	np	np	0.8	—	np	0.7	13.0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA												
2012-13	76.6	16.6	157.2	250.4	466.5	921.8	15.1	35.1	10.5	0.7	63.9	1 763.4
2013-14	58.4	14.0	94.9	167.3	295.3	634.4	16.4	22.6	9.5	1.7	73.4	1 220.0
2014-15	33.6	15.2	78.5	127.2	274.3	406.2	14.1	26.4	2.7	2.9	63.8	917.3
2013-14												
March	6.6	2.9	15.5	25.0	56.2	102.1	3.7	3.7	np	np	13.4	206.2
June	13.3	3.5	24.8	41.6	66.6	167.3	2.8	6.7	np	np	22.4	309.7
2014-15												
September	13.6	3.9	23.8	41.2	61.9	130.3	6.3	4.7	0.6	1.0	21.1	267.1
December	9.6	4.9	21.0	35.5	64.0	131.5	2.0	9.0	np	np	17.9	262.3
March	4.6	2.2	18.1	24.9	67.4	70.0	3.0	5.9	np	np	11.2	183.2
June	5.7	4.3	15.6	25.6	81.0	74.4	2.8	6.8	np	np	13.6	204.8
2015-16												
September	8.4	3.3	13.9	25.6	94.8	79.1	3.5	8.5	np	np	20.1	233.1
December	9.0	3.2	13.5	25.7	95.6	71.8	2.9	8.4	np	np	15.4	222.6
TASMANIA												
2012-13	np	np	0.4	8.5	np	np	np	—	np	—	18.0	40.5
2013-14	np	np	0.1	5.4	np	np	—	—	np	—	11.4	30.1
2014-15	np	np	np	np	np	5.4	—	—	np	—	8.0	19.9
2013-14												
March	np	np	np	1.1	np	1.1	—	—	np	—	2.4	6.4
June	np	np	np	0.5	np	0.9	—	—	np	—	1.7	5.6
2014-15												
September	np	np	np	0.9	np	2.4	—	—	np	—	3.3	7.5
December	np	np	—	1.3	0.4	np	—	—	np	—	1.7	4.2
March	np	np	—	1.4	np	np	—	—	—	—	1.6	4.4
June	np	np	—	np	np	np	—	—	—	—	1.3	3.8
2015-16												
September	np	np	—	np	np	np	—	—	—	—	2.8	3.9
December	np	0.2	—	np	np	0.2	—	—	—	—	1.6	2.3

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) From September quarter 2000 Publication tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram and construction materials were added to this category.

continued

SELECTED BASE METALS

Period	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Total	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Uranium	Coal	Diamonds	Other(a)	Total Mineral Exploration
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
NORTHERN TERRITORY												
2012-13	9.6	4.6	0.1	14.3	46.5	np	1.7	10.1	np	np	24.6	131.6
2013-14	np	np	np	6.7	27.7	36.2	0.8	8.7	np	np	27.2	118.3
2014-15	4.1	np	np	8.7	35.5	np	0.5	7.9	np	np	25.6	95.7
2013-14												
March	0.4	np	np	1.3	5.0	np	np	1.1	—	np	5.1	21.4
June	0.6	np	np	1.4	10.3	12.1	np	1.5	np	np	6.8	34.5
2014-15												
September	np	np	np	2.7	9.7	np	np	3.0	np	np	6.4	27.3
December	1.5	np	np	2.6	7.9	np	0.2	2.4	np	np	7.2	24.8
March	0.7	np	np	1.3	5.8	np	np	0.7	np	np	5.0	19.4
June	np	np	np	2.1	12.0	np	np	1.9	np	np	7.0	24.2
2015-16												
September	1.3	np	np	3.0	16.9	np	np	5.6	np	np	6.6	33.4
December	1.1	np	np	2.2	17.6	np	np	1.2	—	np	6.2	27.5
AUSTRALIA												
2012-13	319.3	79.9	164.5	563.7	661.7	1 011.2	37.8	69.4	544.0	6.3	161.2	3 055.4
2013-14	176.7	45.8	99.4	321.9	434.3	710.5	np	43.8	398.7	np	156.3	2 108.8
2014-15	144.4	51.9	82.6	279.0	395.7	447.8	27.1	40.6	251.7	5.3	129.1	1 575.0
2013-14												
March	36.2	10.1	16.8	63.0	81.7	115.2	6.5	6.4	101.8	2.5	30.5	408.0
June	42.5	10.3	25.6	78.4	103.9	189.0	6.5	10.4	80.9	2.7	42.8	515.0
2014-15												
September	44.2	13.1	24.3	81.7	90.0	142.9	10.7	9.9	80.3	1.8	38.0	455.0
December	40.8	16.9	22.5	80.1	101.7	145.1	4.4	12.8	78.0	1.5	35.6	459.0
March	31.3	8.7	19.2	59.2	91.6	82.5	6.2	7.5	43.4	0.9	26.0	317.0
June	28.1	13.2	16.7	58.0	112.4	77.2	5.8	10.4	50.1	1.2	29.5	344.0
2015-16												
September	30.2	16.4	14.7	61.4	133.7	82.2	6.6	15.4	56.3	1.6	36.6	394.0
December	31.4	12.3	14.6	58.2	138.2	74.5	5.3	10.7	63.4	1.5	29.5	382.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) From September quarter 2000 Publication tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram and construction materials were added to this category.

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, Expenditure by onshore and offshore

Period	ONSHORE			OFFSHORE			TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total	On production leases(a)	On all other leases(a)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2012-13	949.3	414.0	1 363.2	2 638.5	791.7	3 430.2	1 367.3	3 426.1	4 793.4
2013-14	721.9	590.7	1 312.5	2 768.8	743.3	3 512.1	1 361.7	3 462.9	4 824.6
2014-15	771.5	482.6	1 254.1	1 955.9	581.3	2 537.3	847.4	2 944.0	3 791.4
2013-14									
March	163.0	110.9	273.9	593.2	205.0	798.2	331.4	740.7	1 072.1
June	171.2	258.3	429.6	843.4	260.8	1 104.2	291.7	1 242.2	1 533.8
2014-15									
September	153.2	145.1	298.3	578.5	103.2	681.6	284.8	695.0	979.9
December	281.0	150.4	431.4	585.6	136.1	721.7	288.2	865.0	1 153.1
March	163.9	118.0	281.9	498.9	179.8	678.7	154.8	805.8	960.6
June	173.4	69.2	242.6	292.9	162.3	455.2	119.6	578.1	697.8
2015-16									
September	95.4	103.5	198.9	268.9	115.1	384.0	173.6	409.3	582.9
December	70.9	87.9	158.9	201.7	121.5	323.1	151.3	330.7	482.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2013-14									
March	194.2	123.7	317.9	612.5	205.1	817.6	424.3	711.2	1 135.5
June	171.1	274.1	445.3	857.6	226.2	1 083.8	306.5	1 222.6	1 529.1
2014-15									
September	163.3	127.7	291.0	572.9	126.7	699.6	255.9	734.6	990.6
December	233.2	137.8	371.0	579.3	136.4	715.7	245.1	841.6	1 086.7
March	193.9	132.0	325.9	512.3	176.7	689.0	200.9	814.0	1 014.9
June	173.4	81.3	254.7	301.6	140.5	442.1	128.5	568.3	696.8
2015-16									
September	103.5	91.5	195.0	255.1	137.5	392.6	155.0	432.6	587.6
December	58.1	77.5	135.6	197.7	122.2	319.9	130.2	325.3	455.5
TREND									
2013-14									
March	172.8	105.9	278.7	602.2	196.5	798.7	359.6	717.8	1 077.4
June	176.1	113.1	289.2	580.5	189.7	770.1	330.4	728.9	1 059.3
2014-15									
September	189.2	125.7	314.9	584.7	163.5	748.2	276.9	786.2	1 063.1
December	203.9	130.9	334.7	557.7	146.8	704.5	226.8	812.4	1 039.3
March	201.6	121.6	323.2	473.9	149.3	623.2	191.1	755.3	946.4
June	162.5	100.3	262.9	354.3	150.1	504.3	158.8	607.2	768.1
2015-16									
September	110.7	84.8	195.6	253.0	136.6	389.6	138.7	445.7	585.6
December	65.7	76.5	141.2	189.4	123.0	312.5	131.2	337.6	445.7

(a) Refer to Glossary for definition

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, Expenditure by state and territory

<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(a)</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL								
2012-13	158.1	21.5	655.3	386.3	3 293.7	1.5	277.0	4 793.4
2013-14	145.5	34.4	612.6	531.3	2 990.5	0.4	509.9	4 824.6
2014-15	102.2	16.3	751.6	400.2	2 068.8	10.9	441.4	3 791.4
2013-14								
March	np	np	126.3	92.7	737.1	np	72.9	1 072.1
June	np	np	166.6	265.7	823.9	np	231.0	1 533.8
2014-15								
September	np	np	153.5	60.3	591.5	np	127.2	979.9
December	np	np	290.2	92.0	605.4	np	123.1	1 153.1
March	np	4.2	154.4	177.1	439.3	np	np	960.6
June	11.1	np	153.5	70.7	432.7	np	np	697.8
2015-16								
September	np	np	90.4	41.0	407.5	np	37.2	582.9
December	15.5	np	62.0	41.4	337.6	np	22.5	482.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2013-14								
March	np	np	158.8	79.6	787.8	np	72.9	1 135.5
June	np	np	163.1	264.6	802.8	np	231.0	1 529.1
2014-15								
September	np	np	153.2	73.4	591.3	np	127.2	990.6
December	22.2	np	247.9	94.5	588.5	np	123.1	1 086.7
March	20.5	np	192.5	145.6	467.6	np	163.6	1 014.9
June	9.9	np	147.6	70.8	421.5	np	27.6	696.8
2015-16								
September	6.6	np	91.4	50.7	400.2	np	37.0	587.6
December	11.9	np	53.0	42.9	329.7	np	22.5	455.5
TREND								
2013-14								
March	np	np	146.2	83.1	694.7	np	108.9	1 077.4
June	np	np	159.9	75.8	658.6	np	112.8	1 059.3
2014-15								
September	np	np	188.4	87.4	607.3	np	131.1	1 063.1
December	32.3	np	207.4	104.8	544.8	np	138.9	1 039.3
March	18.9	np	197.3	108.3	492.4	np	112.5	946.4
June	10.9	np	149.3	87.9	430.7	np	70.7	768.1
2015-16								
September	9.2	np	95.6	58.4	381.5	np	33.7	585.6
December	8.2	np	62.0	32.9	348.8	np	15.9	445.7

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Also contains some additional areas. See paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The private sector exploration statistics appearing in this publication have been collected and compiled from the Mineral Exploration and Petroleum Exploration quarterly censuses conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This publication contains actual and expected exploration expenditure.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 The Mineral Exploration and Petroleum Exploration censuses cover private enterprises known to be engaged in exploration in Australia, and in Australian waters including the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA), regardless of the main activity of the explorer.

3 The Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) is an area in the Timor Sea, about 500 km north west of Darwin. The JPDA consists of the area previously referred to as Area A of the Zone of Cooperation (ZOC). A treaty was signed with Indonesia in 1989 to enable exploration for and development of petroleum resources in this area. Following East Timor's separation from Indonesia, arrangements continued on a transitional basis between Australia and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on behalf of East Timor. On 20 May 2002, the newly independent East Timor and Australia accepted arrangements as proposed in the new Timor Sea Treaty (based on an 'Exchange of Notes' between the two countries). A new Treaty, which entered into force on the 2 April 2003, provides the necessary framework arrangements for companies to exploit resources in the JPDA.

4 The areas formerly known as Areas B and C of the Zone of Cooperation no longer exist under this arrangement. Since 20 May 2002, ZOCCB is simply a part of Australia's waters, and ZOCC a part of East Timor's.

5 Exploration in the JPDA is included in estimates for the Northern Territory. Further, as a reflection of the joint Australia/East Timor administration of exploration and production activity in the JPDA, 50% of exploration expenditure in the JPDA is excluded from the estimates. The feature article 'Statistical Treatment of Economic Activity in the Timor Sea' published in the September Quarter 2003 issue of *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0) provides further details.

6 The 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 the Northern Territory data.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

7 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. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular series.

8 These irregular influences that are volatile or unsystematic can make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation. This means that quarter-to-quarter movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

9 In this publication, the seasonally adjusted estimates are produced by the concurrent seasonal adjustment method which takes account of the latest available original estimates. This method improves the estimation of seasonal factors, and therefore, the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for the current and previous quarters. As a result of this improvement, revisions to the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates will be observed for recent periods. A more detailed review is conducted on an annual basis.

10 The revision properties of the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates can be improved by the use of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) modelling. ARIMA modelling relies on the characteristics of the series being analysed to project future period data. The projected values are temporary, intermediate values, that are

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

continued

only used internally to improve the estimation of the seasonal factors. The projected data do not affect the original estimates and are discarded at the end of the seasonal adjustment process. The Mineral Exploration collection uses ARIMA modelling where appropriate for individual time series. The ARIMA model is assessed as part of the annual review. For more information on the details of ARIMA modelling see the feature article: *Use of ARIMA modelling to reduce revisions* in the October 2004 issue of *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0).

11 In using the seasonally adjusted series for petroleum exploration offshore drilling and petroleum exploration in Western Australia, care should be exercised because of the difficulties associated with reliably estimating the seasonal pattern.

TREND ESTIMATES

12 The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates reduces the impact of the irregular component of the seasonally adjusted series.

13 The trend estimates are derived by applying a 7-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. The 7-term Henderson average 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.

14 *Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series, Monitoring Trends, an Overview* (cat. no. 1349.0), can be obtained by contacting Time Series Analysis Canberra on (02) 6252 6345 or e-mail <time.series.analysis@abs.gov.au>.

EXPECTED EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

15 Expected expenditure is collected in June and December quarter each year. Businesses are asked to report their expected expenditure for the next six months.

16 From the June quarter 2000 publication, the basis for the Expected Mineral Exploration Expenditure series changed. Prior to June 2000, the expected estimates released were simple aggregates of data compiled through the quarterly Mineral Exploration collection. However, these aggregates underestimated actual expenditure to a fairly consistent degree. The consistency with which the published data underestimated actual expenditure suggested that adjustments to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the estimates of expected expenditure would be possible.

17 In the period since June 2000, such adjustments have been made to reported expected exploration data resulting in estimates which better predict actual expenditure for the same period. For more information regarding the adjustments made to the Expected Mineral Exploration Expenditure series, see the feature article in the June quarter 2000 and the appendix in the December quarter 2002 issue of this publication. Since the June quarter 2003 issue, both unadjusted and adjusted expectations data have been presented in this publication.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

18 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, government and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is appreciated: without it a wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

19 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from the ABS web site:

- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 5625.0)

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

continued

- *Australian Mining Industry* (cat. no. 8414.0)
- *Mining Operations, Australia* (cat. no. 8415.0)

ABS DATA AVAILABLE

ELECTRONICALLY

20 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics View. The ABS also issues a daily *Release Advice* on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

21 Details of wells and metres drilled in petroleum exploration are available from Geoscience Australia's *Oil and Gas Resources of Australia* available at www.ga.gov.au.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

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

GLOSSARY

Development	Phase usually following exploration where a prospective discovery (e.g. proven oil or gas field or concentrate of ore) is brought into production or for extending the life of a current mine or well. Activities may include preparing the ground by the removal of overburden, constructing shafts, drives and winzes; or by drilling and completing wells. All activities are for the purposes of commencing extraction/mining or extending production.
Exploration	Activity involves searching for concentrations of naturally occurring solid, liquid or gaseous materials and includes new field wildcat and stratigraphical and extension/appraisal wells and mineral appraisals intended to delineate or greatly extend the limits of known deposits by geological, geophysical, geochemical, drilling or other methods. This includes drilling of boreholes, 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	Covers all expenditure (capitalised and non-capitalised) during the exploratory or evaluation stages in Australia, Australian waters, and the JPDA. Costs include cost of exploration, determination of recoverable reserves, engineering and economic feasibility studies, procurement of finance, gaining access to reserves, construction of pilot plants and all technical and administrative overheads directly associated with these functions. Examples are costs of satellite imagery, airborne and seismic surveys, use of geophysical and other instruments, geochemical surveys and map preparation; licence fees, land access and legal costs; geologist inspections, chemical analysis and payments to employees and contractors. Cash bids for offshore petroleum exploration permits are also included.
Exploration licence/permit	Is designed to cover the exploration phase of a project and confers exclusive rights to the exploration for and recovery of samples from the area designated. These rights are granted by relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory Governments.
Minerals	Are a naturally occurring inorganic element or compound having an orderly internal structure and characteristic chemical composition, crystal form, and physical properties. These, for example, comprise of metallic minerals, such as copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel, cobalt, gold, iron ore, mineral sands, uranium and non-metallic minerals such as coal, diamonds and other precious and semi-precious stones and construction materials (e.g. gravel and sand).
Mining licence/lease	Covers the commercial mining phase of a project for the licenced area. This licence authorises both full recovery and further exploration to occur.
Offshore	Commences from the low water mark to three nautical miles out (referred to as coastal waters) under State and Northern Territory legislation and extends to those areas beyond coastal waters governed by the Commonwealth under the <i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967</i> .
Onshore	Includes all Australian territorial lands to the low water mark.
Petroleum	Is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon or mixture of hydrocarbons. As oil or gas in solution (e.g. Liquid Petroleum Gas), it is widespread in Australian sedimentary rocks.
Retention licence	Is an intermediate form of tenure between the exploration licence and mining licence allowing the holder of the exploration licence to retain title to the area for a limited time. It is designed to ensure the retention of rights pending the transition of a project from the exploration phase to the commercial mining phase.
Selected base metals	Are made up of the following minerals: copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel and cobalt.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Type of deposit	<p>Classification used:</p> <p><i>Existing deposits</i> – Exploration that is delineating or proving up an existing deposit, including extensions and infill, which has been classified as an Inferred Mineral Resource or higher.</p> <p><i>New deposits</i> – Exploration on previously unknown mineralisations or known mineralisations yet to be classified as an Inferred Mineral Resource or higher. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Exploration resulting in finding mineralisation that was previously unknown.– Exploration on previously known mineralisation that has not been subjected to modern exploration.– Exploration within an existing mining tenement for the purpose of finding new sources of mineralisation that have not already been classified as at least an Inferred Mineral Resource.
Type of expenditure	<p>Classification used:</p> <p><i>Drilling expenditure</i> – includes wages and salaries paid to employees; purchase, rental, hiring as well as operation and maintenance of drilling equipment together with activities associated with accessing the areas where drilling is to occur (e.g. road creation, vessel/transport hiring, site preparation and restoration). Also includes expenditure on drilling done by contractors.</p> <p><i>Other expenditure</i> – includes all other exploration costs, other than those associated with drilling expenditure. This expenditure includes purchase of capital and non-capital items, rental or hiring fees, service fees relating to surveying and analysis, administrative and legal fees associated with obtaining licences/permits, land access, map preparation, feasibility studies, environmental impacts studies and restoration costs.</p>
Type of lease	<p>Classifications used:</p> <p><i>Production lease</i> – is an area on which development to extract coal, minerals, liquids or gaseous materials is underway or where extraction/mining of these substances is already occurring. See also mining licence/lease.</p> <p><i>All other areas</i> – are those areas outside the Production lease. These include areas under exploration licence/permit or retention licence, as well as non-licensed areas being assessed for exploration, e.g. through airborne surveys.</p>

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