

MINERAL & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, DECEMBER QUARTER 2017

Summary

During the December quarter 2017, private mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure:

- fell 13% in South Australia in trend terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 3.8%); and
- fell 1.5% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 3.5%).

Further Analysis

Trend data

South Australian expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 28% lower compared to a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 14% lower and for petroleum exploration was 32% lower over the year.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 0.1% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 22% higher over the year but was 25% lower for petroleum exploration.

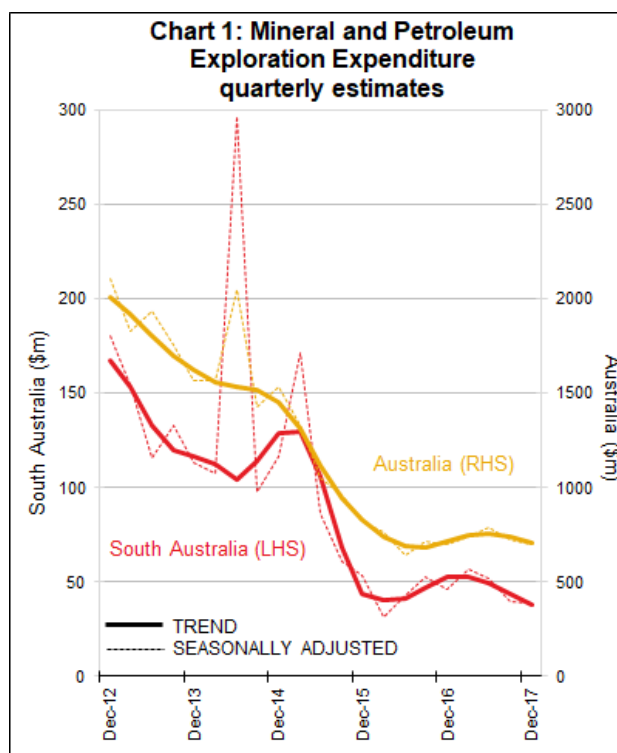
Seasonally Adjusted data

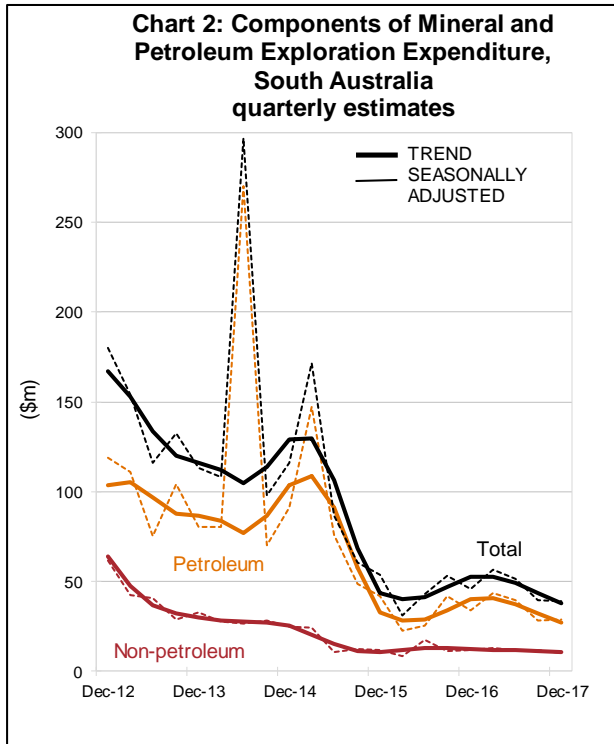
The 1.5% fall in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by a fall of 13% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure while petroleum exploration expenditure rose by 3.2%. December quarter exploration spending was 14% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 3.5% fall in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by a 15% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure while non-petroleum exploration expenditure rose by 4.1%. National exploration expenditure was 0.1% lower than a year earlier.

TABLE 1: Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure (trend estimates)

	Dec qtr 17 (\$m)	Dec qtr 17 v Sep qtr 17 (% change)	Dec qtr 17 v Dec qtr 16 (% change)
SA			
Mineral	10.7	-6.1	-13.7
Petroleum	27.2	-16.0	-32.2
Total	37.9	-13.5	-27.8
AUS			
Mineral	457.1	2.3	22.0
Petroleum	254.3	-13.2	-24.7
Total	711.4	-3.8	-0.1





Original data

In the December quarter 2017, non-petroleum mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia was concentrated in:

- Copper (27% of total);
- Iron Ore (18% of total); and
- Uranium (6.5% of total).

Note: References to expenditure data by type of mineral sought is in original terms – the ABS does not provide these data in trend or seasonally adjusted terms

5 March 2018

Next release of ABS cat. no. 8412.0 is 4 June 2018

