

# MINERAL & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 2015

## Summary

During the September quarter 2015, private mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure:

- fell 22% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 6.2%); and
- fell 31% in South Australia in trend terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure also fell 16%).

## Further Analysis

### Seasonally Adjusted data

The fall in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the September quarter was driven by a 27% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure which was partially offset by a rise of 5.5% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. September quarter exploration spending was 37% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 6.2% fall in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the September quarter was driven by a 14% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure which was partially offset by an 11% rise in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 33% lower than a year earlier.

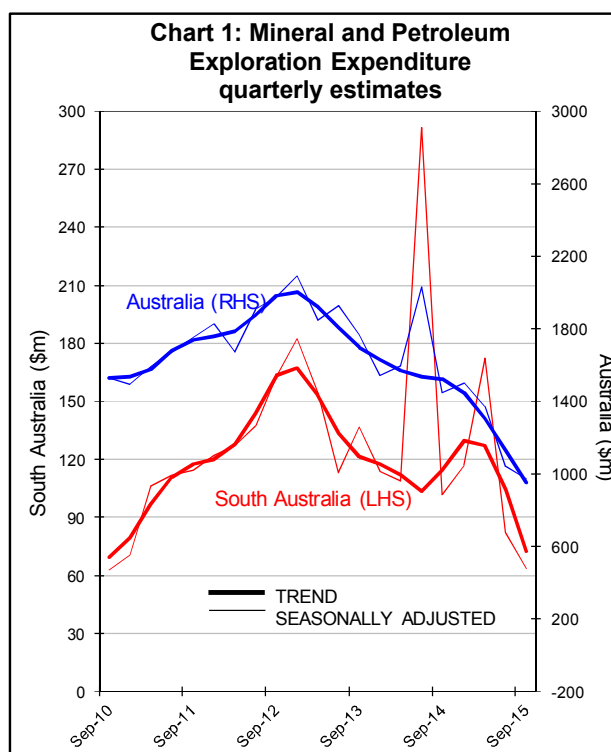
### Trend data

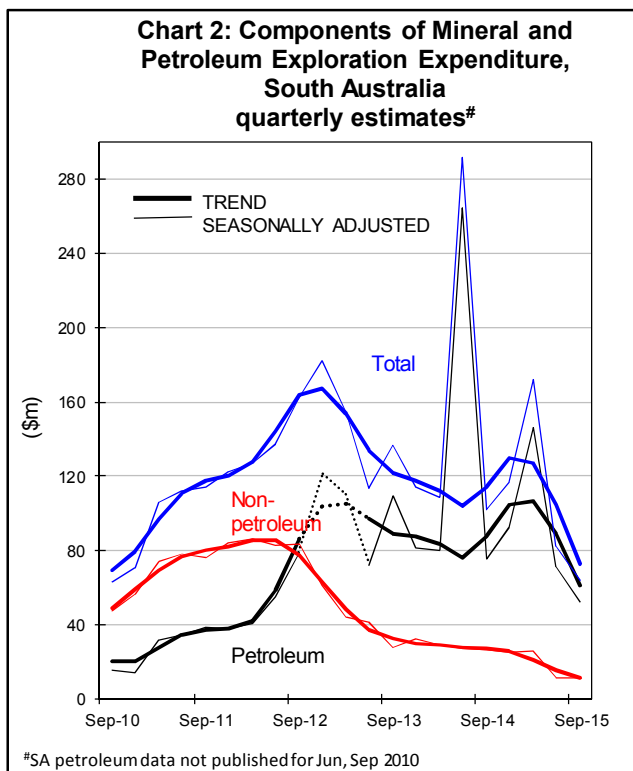
South Australian expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 37% lower compared to a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 58% lower and for petroleum exploration was 30% lower over the year.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 37% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 24% lower over the year and was 43% lower for petroleum exploration.

**TABLE 1: Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure  
(seasonally adjusted estimates)**

	Sep qtr 15 (\$m)	Sep qtr 15 v Jun qtr 15 (% change)	Sep qtr 15 v Sep qtr 14 (% change)
<b>SA</b>			
Mineral	11.6	5.5	-56.4
Petroleum	52.0	-26.7	-30.7
Total	63.6	-22.3	-37.4
<b>AUS</b>			
Mineral	368.9	11.5	-14.2
Petroleum	604.4	-14.5	-40.6
Total	973.3	-6.2	-32.7





### Original data

In the September quarter 2015, non-petroleum mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia was concentrated in:

- Copper (24% of total); and
- Silver, lead and zinc (15% of total);
- Iron ore exploration was not available for publication in the September quarter.

*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*