



MINERAL & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, DECEMBER QUARTER 2015

Summary

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

- fell 13% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 14%); and
- fell 39% in South Australia in trend terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 14%).

Further Analysis

Seasonally Adjusted data

The fall in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by a 15% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure and a smaller fall of 1.7% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. December quarter exploration spending was 54% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 14% fall in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by a 22% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure and a smaller fall of 1.4% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 46% lower than a year earlier.

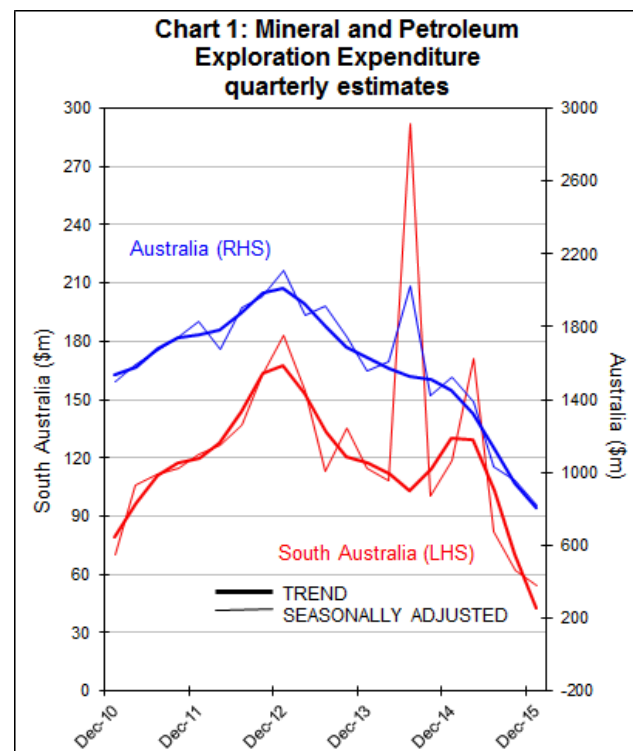
Trend data

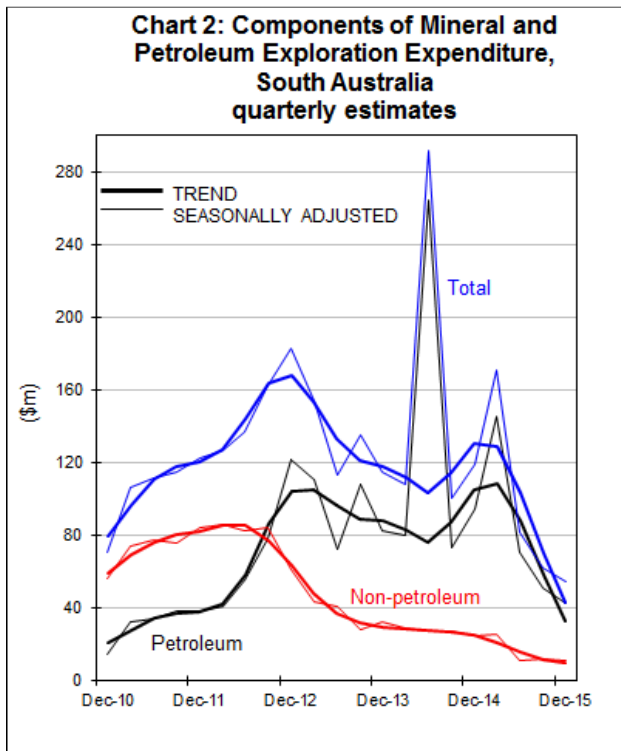
South Australian expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 67% lower compared to a year earlier. Expenditure on petroleum exploration was 69% lower over the year and, for non-petroleum exploration, was 60% lower.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 44% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on petroleum exploration was 57% lower over the year and, for non-petroleum exploration, was 12% lower.

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

	Dec qtr 15 (\$m)	Dec qtr 15 v Sep qtr 15 (% change)	Dec qtr 15 v Dec qtr 14 (% change)
SA			
Mineral	11.5	-1.7	-52.9
Petroleum	42.9	-15.4	-54.6
Total	54.4	-12.8	-54.2
AUS			
Mineral	365.3	-1.4	-16.6
Petroleum	455.5	-22.5	-58.1
Total	820.8	-14.3	-46.2





Original data

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

- Copper (34% of total);
- Gold (16% of total); and
- Silver, lead, zinc (12% of total).
- N.B. Iron Ore exploration spending was not published in the December 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