

MINERAL & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, MARCH QUARTER 2016

Summary

During the March quarter 2016, private mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure:

- fell 20% in South Australia in trend terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 7.4%); and
- fell 35% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 3.8%).

Further Analysis

Trend data

South Australian expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 73% lower compared to a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 53% lower and was 77% lower for petroleum exploration over the year.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 41% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 5.7% lower over the year and was 55% lower for petroleum exploration.

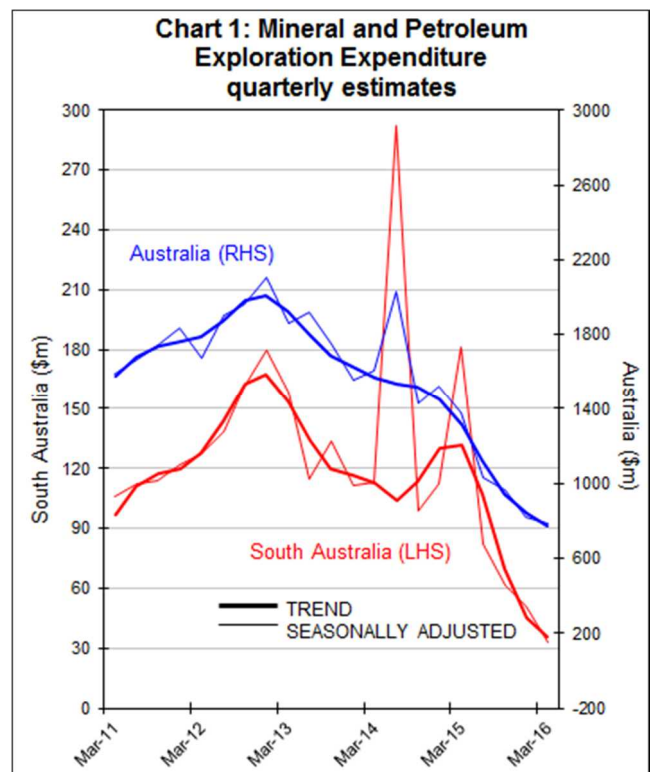
Seasonally Adjusted data

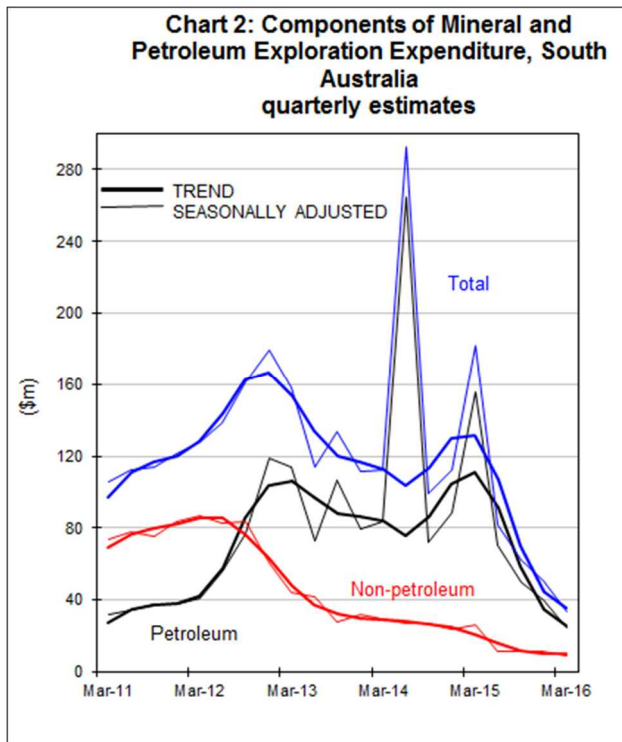
The 35% fall in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the March quarter was driven by a 39% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure and a fall of 19% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. March quarter exploration spending was 82% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 3.8% fall in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the March quarter was driven by a 3.1% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure and a fall of 4.7% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 43% lower than a year earlier.

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

	Mar qtr 16	Mar qtr 16 v Dec qtr 15	Mar qtr 16 v Mar qtr 15
	(\$m)	(% change)	(% change)
SA			
Mineral	10.0	0.0	-52.6
Petroleum	25.8	-26.1	-76.7
Total	35.8	-20.3	-72.9
AUS			
Mineral	355.6	0.0	-5.7
Petroleum	420.1	-12.8	-55.4
Total	775.7	-7.4	-41.2





Original data

In the March quarter 2016, non-petroleum mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia was concentrated in:

- Copper (39% of total);
- Gold (10% of total); and
- Silver, Lead, Zinc (7.8% 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