

MINERAL & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 2016

Summary

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

- rose 11% in South Australia in trend terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 3.1%); and
- rose 20% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure rose 11%).

Further Analysis

Trend data

South Australian expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 32% lower compared to a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 22% higher but for petroleum exploration was 42% lower over the year.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 29% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 0.8% lower over the year and was 45% lower for petroleum exploration.

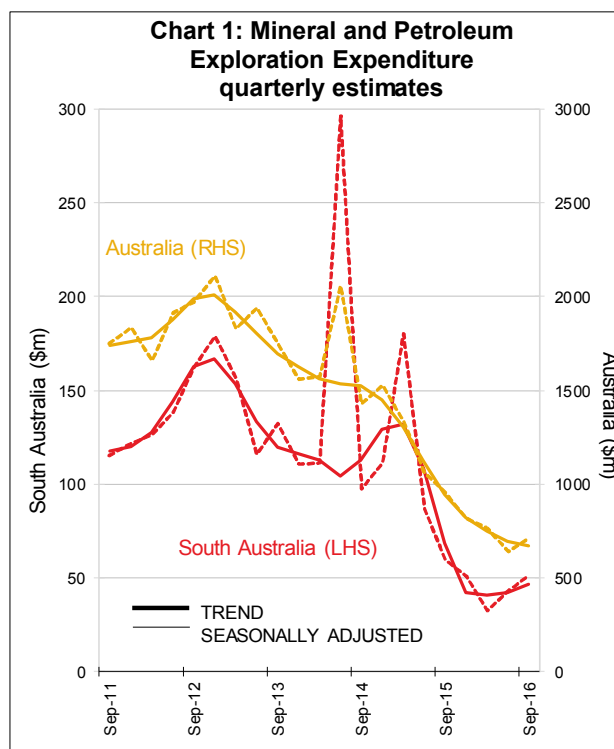
Seasonally Adjusted data

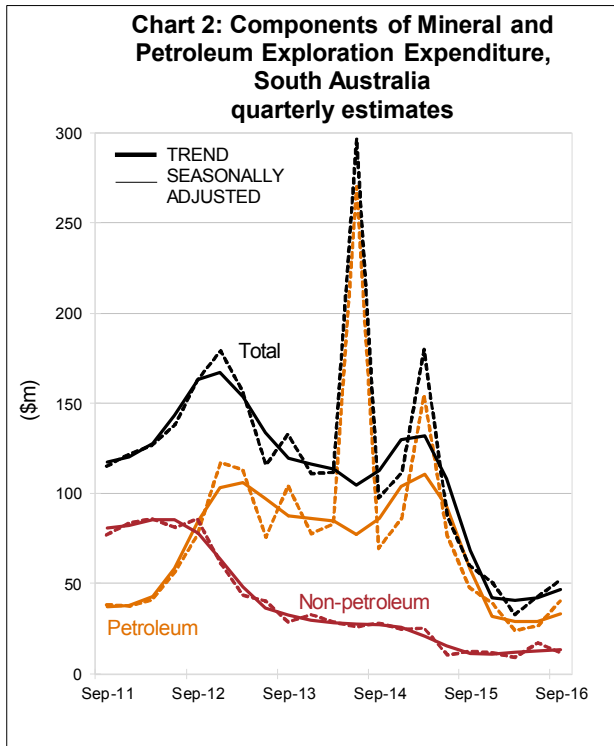
The 20% rise in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the September quarter was driven by a 53% rise in petroleum exploration expenditure which was only partially offset by a fall of 32% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. September quarter exploration spending was 13% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 11% rise in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the September quarter was driven by a 22% rise in petroleum exploration expenditure and a smaller rise of 1.0% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 26% lower than a year earlier.

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

	Sep qtr 16 (\$m)	Sep qtr 16 v Jun qtr 16 (% change)	Sep qtr 16 v Sep qtr 15 (% change)
SA			
Mineral	13.5	4.7	21.6
Petroleum	33.3	13.7	-42.0
Total	46.8	10.9	-31.7
AUS			
Mineral	349.2	0.6	-0.8
Petroleum	324.5	-6.9	-45.2
Total	673.7	-3.1	-28.6





Original data

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

- Copper (49% of total);
- Iron ore (13% of total); and
- Silver, Lead, Zinc (6.7% 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 December 2016

Next release of ABS cat. no. 8412.0 is 27 February 2017

