

# MINERAL & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, MARCH QUARTER 2017

## Summary

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

- rose 6.4% in South Australia in trend terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure rose 3.5%); and
- rose 26% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure rose 5.1%).

## Further Analysis

### Trend data

South Australian expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 38% higher compared to a year earlier. Expenditure on petroleum exploration was 55% higher over the year, partially offset by a small fall of 0.8% for non-petroleum exploration spending.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 1.1% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on petroleum exploration was 13% lower over the year while expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 12% higher.

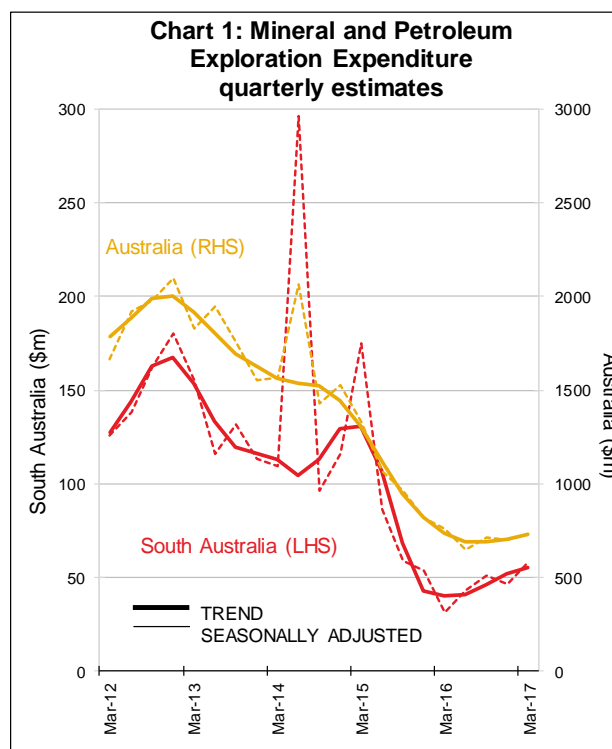
### Seasonally Adjusted data

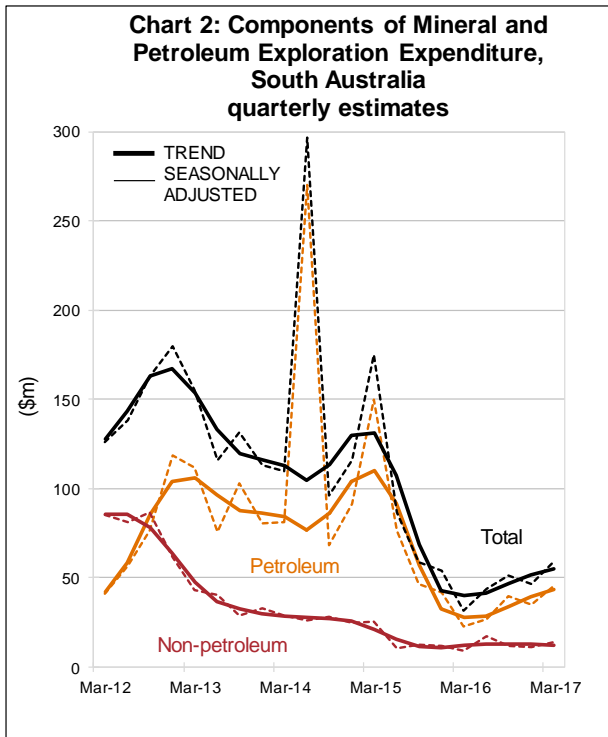
The 26% rise in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the March quarter was driven by a 28% rise in petroleum exploration expenditure and a rise of 19% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. March quarter exploration spending was 87% higher compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 5.1% rise in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the March quarter was driven by a rise of 5.2% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure and a rise of 4.9% in petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 3.7% lower than a year earlier.

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

	Mar qtr 17 (\$m)	Mar qtr 17 v Dec qtr 16 (% change)	Mar qtr 17 v Mar qtr 16 (% change)
<b>SA</b>			
Mineral	12.0	-4.0	-0.8
Petroleum	43.1	9.7	55.0
Total	55.1	6.4	38.1
<b>AUS</b>			
Mineral	392.1	4.7	12.2
Petroleum	339.6	2.2	-12.9
Total	731.7	3.5	-1.1





### Original data

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

- Copper (30% of total);
- Iron Ore (15% of total);
- Silver, Lead, Zinc (5.0% of total); and
- Nickel, Cobalt (3.4% 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 June 2017

Next release of ABS cat. no. 8412.0 is 4 September 2017

