

MINERAL & PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, DECEMBER QUARTER 2016

Summary

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

- rose 6.4% in South Australia in trend terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure rose 0.4%); and
- fell 14% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, mineral exploration expenditure fell 2.5%).

Further Analysis

Trend data

South Australian expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 14% higher compared to a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 16% higher and for petroleum exploration was 14% higher over the year.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 16% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 4.6% higher over the year but was 32% lower for petroleum exploration.

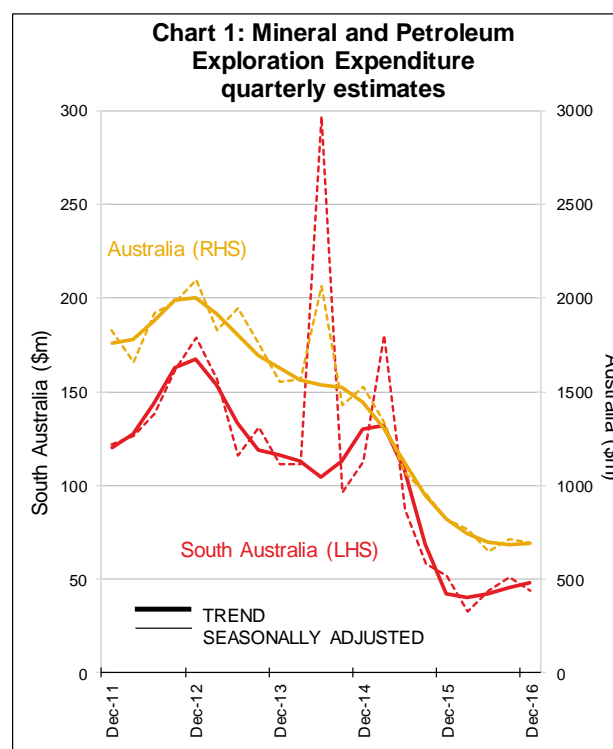
Seasonally Adjusted data

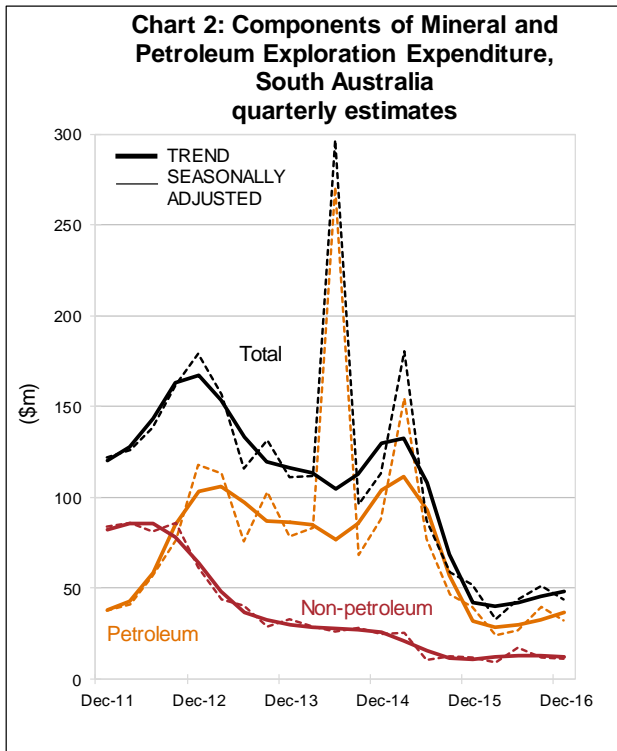
The 14% fall in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by an 18% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure and a smaller fall of 2.6% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. December quarter exploration spending was 15% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 2.5% fall in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by an 11% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure, which was only partially offset by a rise of 5.8% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 15% lower than a year earlier.

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

	Dec qtr 16 (\$m)	Dec qtr 16 v Sep qtr 16 (% change)	Dec qtr 16 v Dec qtr 15 (% change)
SA			
Mineral	12.1	-5.5	16.3
Petroleum	36.2	11.0	13.8
Total	48.3	6.4	14.5
AUS			
Mineral	369.5	3.4	4.6
Petroleum	320.0	-2.9	-32.0
Total	689.5	0.4	-16.3





Original data

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

- Copper (28% of total);
- Iron Ore (15% of total); and
- Silver, Lead, Zinc (13% 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

27 February 2017

Next release of ABS cat. no. 8412.0 is 5 June 2017

