

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION Mar qtr 2023

SUMMARY

During the March quarter 2023, private **mineral** exploration expenditure:

- rose 32% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms and was 92% higher than a year earlier
- nationally, rose 0.7% in the quarter and was 4.0% higher than a year earlier.

N.B. Estimates of South Australian petroleum exploration expenditure were withheld from publication in the September and December quarters 2022. Consequently, the combined mineral and petroleum estimate is not available for these periods. An estimate for petroleum exploration was published for the latest March quarter 2023 period and appears as a dot in the charts where shown alone or as part of the combined total.

FURTHER ANALYSIS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

South Australian expenditure on private mineral exploration rose 32% in the March quarter and was 92% higher than a year earlier – See Chart 2.

The 3.4% rise in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the March quarter was driven by a 16% rise in petroleum exploration expenditure and a smaller rise of 0.7% in mineral exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 1.4% lower than a year earlier.

TREND DATA

South Australian expenditure on mineral exploration was 81% higher compared to a year earlier.

National expenditure on private mineral and petroleum exploration was 1.8% lower compared with a year earlier. Expenditure on non-petroleum exploration was 3.7% higher but for petroleum exploration was 21% lower.

Table 1: Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure (seasonally adjusted)

	Mar qtr 23 (\$m)	Mar qtr 23 v Dec qtr 22 (% change)	Mar qtr 23 v Mar qtr 22 (% change)
SA			
Mineral	64.2	32.4	92.2
Petroleum	20.7	np	-23.6
Total	84.9	np	40.3
AUS			
Mineral	1025.1	0.7	4.0
Petroleum	244.4	16.3	-18.9
Total	1269.5	3.4	-1.4

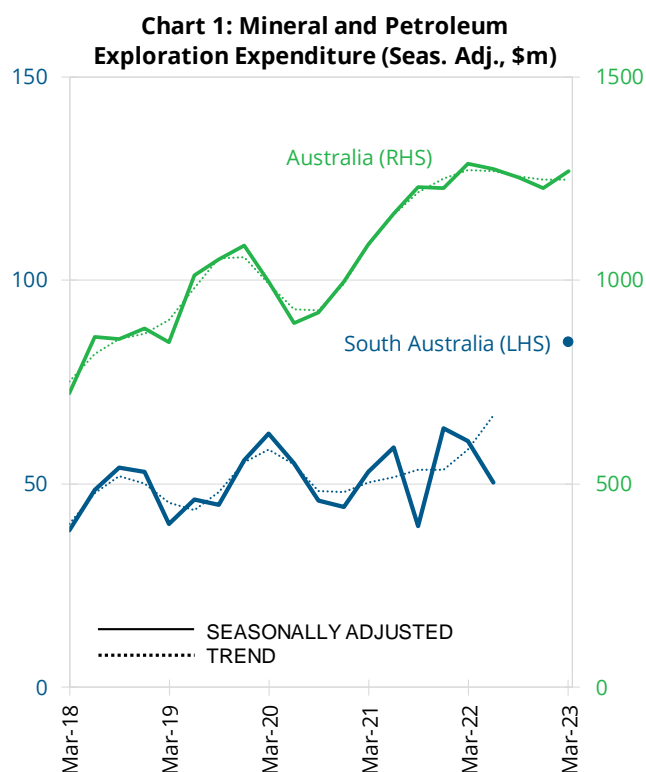
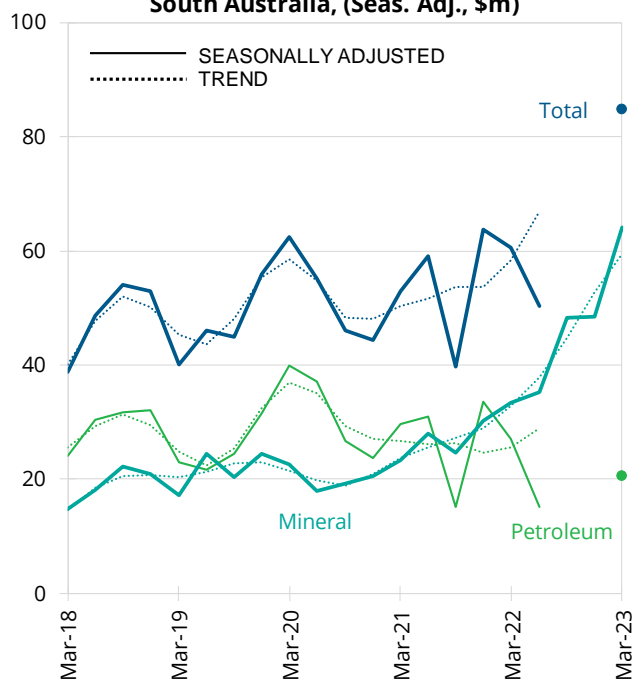


Chart 2: Components of Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure, South Australia, (Seas. Adj., \$m)



ORIGINAL DATA

In the March quarter 2023, non-petroleum mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia was concentrated in:

- Copper (53% of total);
- Iron ore (12% of total); and
- Uranium (9.8% 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

Next release of [this ABS data](#) (formerly cat. no. 8412.0) is 4 September 2023