

SUMMARY

During the December quarter 2020, private mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure:

- fell 1.5% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, exploration expenditure rose 2.7%).

Note: Due to the impacts of COVID-19 on mineral and petroleum exploration, the ABS has suspended the trend series from the March quarter 2020 onwards until further notice.

FURTHER ANALYSIS

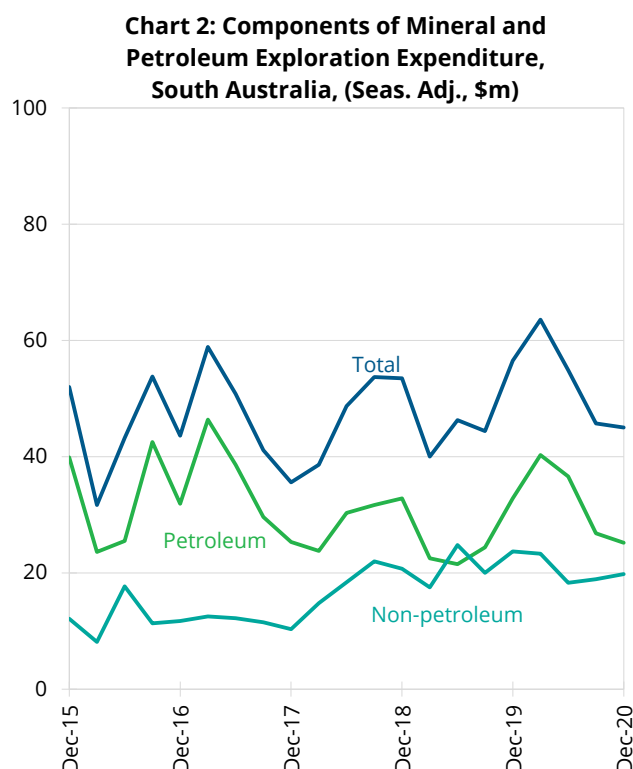
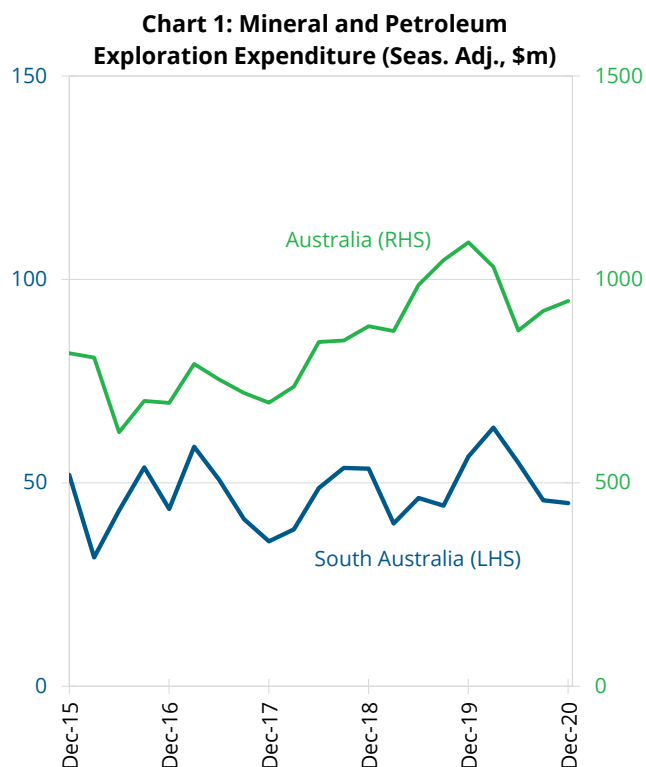
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

The 1.5% fall in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by a 6.0% fall in petroleum exploration expenditure partly offset by a rise of 4.8% in non-petroleum (mineral) exploration expenditure. December quarter exploration spending was 20% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 2.7% rise in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the December quarter was driven by a 3.1% rise in petroleum exploration expenditure and a rise of 2.5% in non-petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 13% lower than a year earlier.

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

	Dec qtr 20 (\$m)	Dec qtr 20 v Sep qtr 20 (% change)	Dec qtr 20 v Dec qtr 19 (% change)
SA			
Mineral	19.8	4.8	-16.5
Petroleum	25.2	-6.0	-23.2
Total	45.0	-1.5	-20.4
AUS			
Mineral	718.4	2.5	0.4
Petroleum	228.9	3.1	-39.1
Total	947.3	2.7	-13.2



ORIGINAL DATA

In the December quarter 2020, non-petroleum mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia was concentrated in:

- Copper (41% of total);
- Uranium (7.9% of total); and
- Iron ore (15% 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 1 June 2021