

SUMMARY

During the March quarter 2021, private mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure:

- rose 15% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (nationally, exploration expenditure rose 12%).

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 15% rise in South Australian expenditure on total private mineral and petroleum exploration during the March quarter was driven by a 19% rise in non-petroleum (mineral) exploration expenditure and a 12% rise in petroleum exploration expenditure. March quarter exploration spending was 14% lower compared to a year earlier—see Charts 1 and 2.

The 12% rise in national expenditure on mineral and petroleum exploration during the March quarter was driven by a rise of 14% in mineral exploration expenditure and a 7.3% rise in petroleum exploration expenditure. National exploration expenditure was 10% higher than a year earlier.

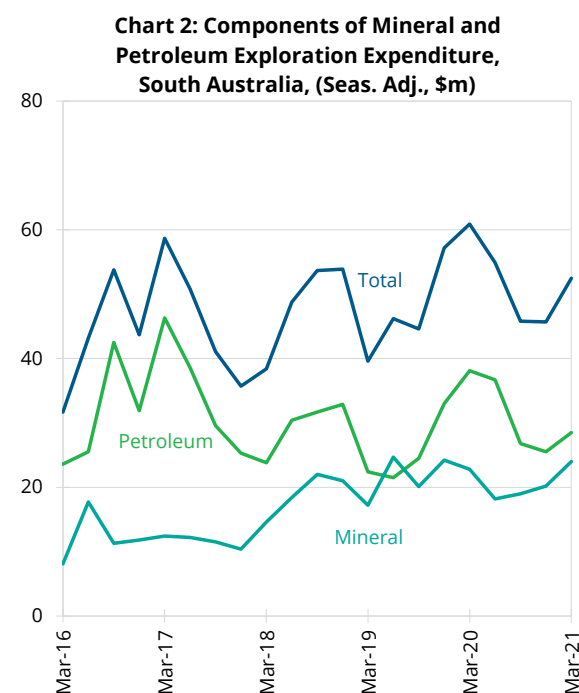
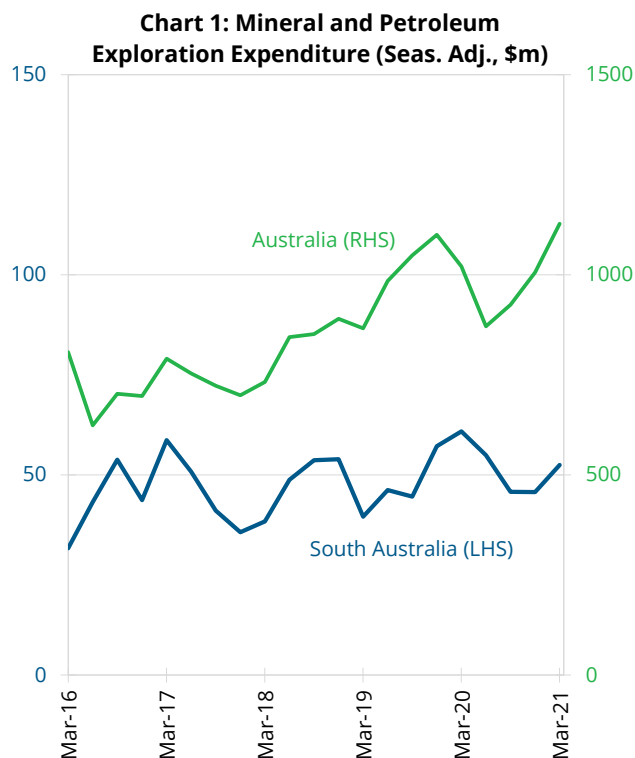
Table 1: Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure (seasonally adjusted)

	Mar qtr 21 (\$m)	Mar qtr 21 v Dec qtr 20 (% change)	Mar qtr 21 v Mar qtr 20 (% change)
SA			
Mineral	24.0	18.8	5.3
Petroleum	28.5	11.8	-25.2
Total	52.5	14.9	-13.8
AUS			
Mineral	843.9	13.7	19.9
Petroleum	283.4	7.3	-10.7
Total	1127.3	12.1	10.4

ORIGINAL DATA

In the March quarter 2021, non-petroleum mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia was concentrated in:

- Copper (51% of total); and
- Uranium (4.9% 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 30 August 2021

