

Mineral Exploration (ABS Cat No 8412.0)

Latest quarter: December quarter 2017

Release date: 5 March 2018

Next release date: 4 June 2018

The ABS publishes data on mineral and petroleum exploration expenditures for all states and the Northern Territory. This release focuses on mineral exploration expenditure data only, as petroleum exploration data are highly volatile and frequently withheld from publication at the jurisdiction level for confidentiality reasons.

Recent performance

The ABS estimated that the nominal value of mineral exploration expenditure in Tasmania was \$7.3 million in the December quarter 2017, in trend terms. This is an increase of 23.7 per cent on the previous quarter, and is 143.3 per cent higher than the value recorded in the December quarter 2016.

Tasmania's total value of exploration expenditure is low compared to resource-rich jurisdictions (Table 1).

Nationally, the nominal value of mineral exploration increased by 2.3 per cent in the December quarter 2017 compared to the previous quarter and was 22.0 per cent above the level recorded one year earlier.

All states and territories except South Australia (down 6.1 per cent) recorded increases in the value of mineral exploration expenditure in the December quarter 2017 compared to the previous quarter. The largest increases in percentage terms were in Tasmania (23.7 per cent) and the Northern Territory (9.3 per cent).

The nominal value of mineral exploration expenditure in Tasmania has increased strongly since mid-2017, but remains below its previous peak of late 2012 (Chart 1).

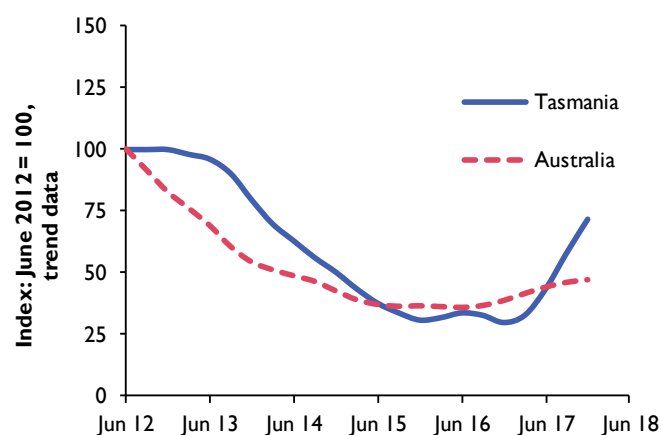
In the year to the December quarter 2017, Tasmania's mineral exploration expenditure increased by 57.0 per cent compared to the previous year in original year-average terms. Nationally, an increase of 22.9 per cent was estimated in the same period (Table 2).

Table 1: Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum) by jurisdiction, December quarter 2017, nominal trend data

Trend	Nominal value (\$m)	Quarterly % change	Annual % change	Share of Aus (%)
NSW	50.8	6.9	53.9	11.1
Vic	15.6	3.3	77.3	3.4
Qld	66.8	4.7	37.2	14.6
SA	10.7	-6.1	-13.7	2.3
WA	280.1	0.3	11.9	61.3
Tas	7.3	23.7	143.3	1.6
NT	25.9	9.3	40.0	5.7
Aus	457.1	2.3	22.0	

SOURCE: MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA, ABS CAT NO 8412.0: TABLE 4

Chart 1: Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum) in Tasmania and Australia, nominal trend data



SOURCE: MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA, ABS CAT NO 8412.0: TABLE 4

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Table 2: Nominal value of mineral exploration (other than for petroleum), Tasmania and Australia

Nominal value	Tasmania				Australia			
	Dec 16	Jun 17	Sep 17	Dec 17	Dec 16	Jun 17	Sep 17	Dec 17
Trend								
Value in quarter (\$m)	3.0	4.4	5.9	7.3	374.7	427.8	446.7	457.1
quarterly % change	-9.1	33.3	34.1	23.7	5.6	6.4	4.4	2.3
% change prev year	-3.2	29.4	78.8	143.3	6.0	23.2	25.9	22.0
Seasonally Adjusted								
Value in quarter (\$m)	3.3	3.8	6.3	7.7	373.2	437.9	442.1	460.1
quarterly % change	13.8	15.2	65.8	22.2	5.6	9.7	1.0	4.1
% change prev year	37.5	2.7	117.2	133.3	5.2	25.9	25.1	23.3
Original								
Total value in year to (\$m)	13.5	13.1	16.9	21.2	1 426.9	1 565.1	1 660.8	1 753.8
Year average, annual % change	-6.3	-2.2	33.1	57.0	-0.8	10.1	18.1	22.9

SOURCE: MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, AUSTRALIA: ABS CAT NO 8412.0: TABLE 4

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