

# Mineral Exploration (ABS Cat No 8412.0)

**Latest quarter: September quarter 2018**

**Release date: 3 December 2018**

**Next release date: 4 March 2019**

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 \$5.8 million in the September quarter 2018, in trend terms. This is a decrease of 3.3 per cent on the previous quarter, but is 1.8 per cent higher than the value recorded in the September quarter 2017.

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 3.6 per cent in the September quarter 2018 compared to the previous quarter and was 25.7 per cent above the level recorded one year earlier.

South Australia (up 16.9 per cent) and Victoria (up 10.1 per cent) recorded the largest increases in the value of mineral exploration expenditure in percentage terms in the September quarter 2018 compared to the previous quarter. Western Australia and Queensland also recorded increases, while Tasmania, New South Wales and the Northern Territory recorded decreases in the same period.

After generally decreasing from mid 2013, the nominal value of mineral exploration expenditure in Tasmania increased through 2017, but has since eased slightly (Chart 1).

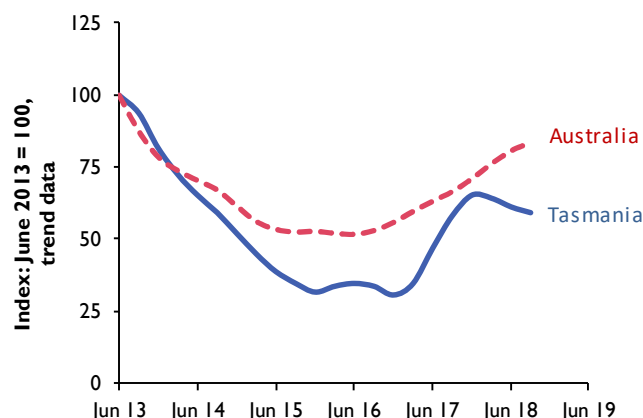
In the year to the September quarter 2018, Tasmania's mineral exploration expenditure increased by 43.8 per cent compared to the previous year in original year-average terms. Nationally, an increase of 25.5 per cent was estimated in the same period (Table 2).

**Table 1: Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum) by jurisdiction, September quarter 2018, nominal trend data**

Trend	Nominal value (\$m)	Quarterly % change	Annual % change	Share of Aus (%)
NSW	61.1	-2.4	27.6	10.9
Vic	24.0	10.1	61.1	4.3
Qld	75.6	0.8	17.2	13.5
SA	21.4	16.9	91.1	3.8
WA	344.5	4.7	23.7	61.4
<b>Tas</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
NT	28.9	-1.0	20.4	5.1
<b>Aus</b>	<b>561.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>25.7</b>	

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			
	Sep 17	Mar 18	Jun 18	Sep 18	Sep 17	Mar 18	Jun 18	Sep 18
<b>Trend</b>								
Value in quarter (\$m)	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.8	446.7	511.9	542.0	561.4
quarterly % change	23.9	-1.6	-4.8	-3.3	5.3	7.3	5.9	3.6
% change prev year	72.7	85.3	30.4	1.8	25.6	27.8	27.7	25.7
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>								
Value in quarter (\$m)	6.4	4.8	7.4	5.1	445.0	517.2	556.7	547.4
quarterly % change	68.4	-33.3	54.2	-31.1	2.1	11.4	7.6	-1.7
% change prev year	120.7	41.2	94.7	-20.3	25.4	31.1	27.8	23.0
<b>Original</b>								
Total value in year to (\$m)	16.9	22.5	25.8	24.3	1 660.8	1 854.9	1 977.8	2 084.7
Year average, annual % change	33.1	71.8	96.9	43.8	18.1	25.8	26.4	25.5

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

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