

30 August 2021

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Mineral exploration rises in the June 2021 quarter

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has today published the June quarter 2021 mineral exploration figures showing that mineral exploration has increased from the previous quarter.

“Overall, mineral exploration expenditure for the June 2021 quarter was 33% (\$228.7m) higher than for June 2020. The industry is performing strongly despite continuing COVID-19 restrictions,” said Warren Pearce, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC).

Following a seasonal fall in the previous quarter, mineral exploration expenditure grew 24% (\$177.2m) in the June quarter 2021 to \$912.0m. This quarter, total expenditure grew in Victoria by 8%, South Australia by 35%, Western Australia by 24%, Northern Territory by 50%, Queensland by 25% and New South Wales by 28%. Tasmania was the only State to suffer a fall in expenditure dropping 30% (\$1.3m).

“Every type of mineral has seen strong growth, with Gold, Iron Ore and Selected Base Metals expenditure increasing 19% (\$69.6m), 49% (\$49.6m) and 21% (\$34.0m) respectively.”

Nationally, greenfield expenditure increased 23% (\$58.2m) to \$310.5m and brownfield expenditure also increased 25% (\$119.0m) to \$601.5m. Metres drilled grew with greenfield exploration up 26% and brownfield exploration up 32%.

“The June quarter has brought significant increases in greenfield exploration expenditure. Queensland particularly had a strong quarter growing 79% (\$16.8m), up 10% (\$8.9m) on the last year. Similarly, Western Australia had growth of 19% (\$32.1m) on last quarter but, more impressively, greenfields exploration in WA was up 51% (\$68.0m) from June last year.”

“Despite greater restrictions around accessing remote locations, greenfields exploration has flourished safely around Australia, helping to discover future mines.”

“Investment into Australian mineral exploration is vital for the future of the mining industry and today’s figures hold the promise of more jobs and economic growth to come,” said Mr Pearce.

Note:

All figures used in this media release are Original, not seasonally adjusted. For further data go to:

[ABS STATS LINK FOR JUNE 2021](#)