Earth Resources Sector Indicators

2020‑2021

Victoria State Government

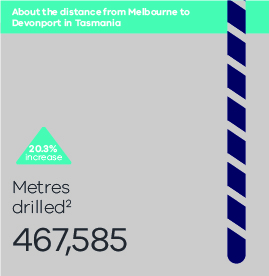
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# Mineral exploration

Victoria’s mineral exploration expenditure recorded a new high in 2020–21, reaching $183.8 million, a 35% increase from $135.8 million in 2019–20.1

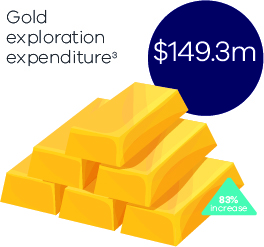
The number of metres drilled exceeded last year’s number by 20.3% – from 388,362 metres in 2019–20 up to 467,585 metres in 2020–21.2





Gold continues to drive mineral exploration investment in Victoria with an 83% increase in 2020–21 compared to the year before.3

Number of new miner’s rights in 2020–21 was 13,835 – an increase of 63% from 2019–20.5



Private new capital expenditure in the Victorian resources sector in 2020–21 was $618 million.4



# Minerals licences

In 2020–21, there were 526 total current mineral licences across four tenement types (exploration, mining, prospecting and retention licences), 18% higher than the previous year.6

In 2020–21, 101 new licence applications were granted, a 114% increase from 47 in 2019–20.7

Pie graph of 526 licences:
Exploration: 291
Mining: 139
Prospecting: 66
Retention: 30



Graphic showing 122 licence applications granted (79% increase).
New licences: 101
Renewed licences: 21

# Employment



# Extractives

In 2020–21, the Victorian extractives industry continued to perform at record‑high levels, with total production equivalent to over 63 million tonnes and total sales of $1 billion (ex‑quarry).

Hard rock production declined slightly by 1.8% from 2019–20, whereas sand and gravel production increased by 2.5% from 2019–20.

Graphic showing extractives production by rock type:
39.6m tonnes: hard rock
16.1m tonnes: sand and gravel

Total extractives production: 63.7m tonnes

$38.8b value of construction activity in Victoria.

# Gas

Graphic showing Victoria's gas production and underground gas storage: 17.51 petajoules.
Gas production: 8.17 petajoules.

**Endnotes**

1 ABS, Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, series ID: A2266875F.

2 Earth Resources Regulation, unpublished data.

3 Earth Resources Regulation Statistical Report 2020–21, page 10.

4 ABS, Private new capital expenditure and expected expenditure Australia, table 12 data series: A3517642T.

5 Earth Resources Regulation, unpublished data. A miner’s right is different from a prospecting licence. Recreational prospectors are required to hold a miner’s right in Victoria which allows them to remove and keep minerals discovered on Crown land or private land where the activity is permitted.

6 Earth Resources Regulation Statistic Report 2020–21, page 15.

7 Earth Resources Regulation Statistic Report 2020–21, page 15.

8 National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR), unpublished data. Covering industries which are categorised by the ABS as included under the Mining division: Coal mining, Metal ore mining, Non metallic mineral mining and quarrying, Oil and gas extraction, Exploration and other mining support services.

9 Earth Resources Regulation Statistical Report 2020‑21.

10 Earth Resources Regulation Statistical Report 2020–21.

11 ABS Construction Work Done, table 04 series ID: A83778675W.

12 Earth Resources Regulation, Annual Statistical Report 2020–21. Quantity of gas produced in Victorian state waters only i.e. within Victoria’s three nautical mile zone.

For more information [earthresources.vic.gov.au](http://www.earthresources.vic.gov.au/)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne

Victoria State Government

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