

# EARTH RESOURCES SECTOR INDICATORS 2020-2021



Jobs,  
Precincts  
and Regions

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

Mineral exploration investment<sup>1</sup>



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

Number of new miner's rights in 2020–21 was 13,835 – an increase of 63% from 2019–20.<sup>5</sup>

Gold exploration expenditure<sup>3</sup>



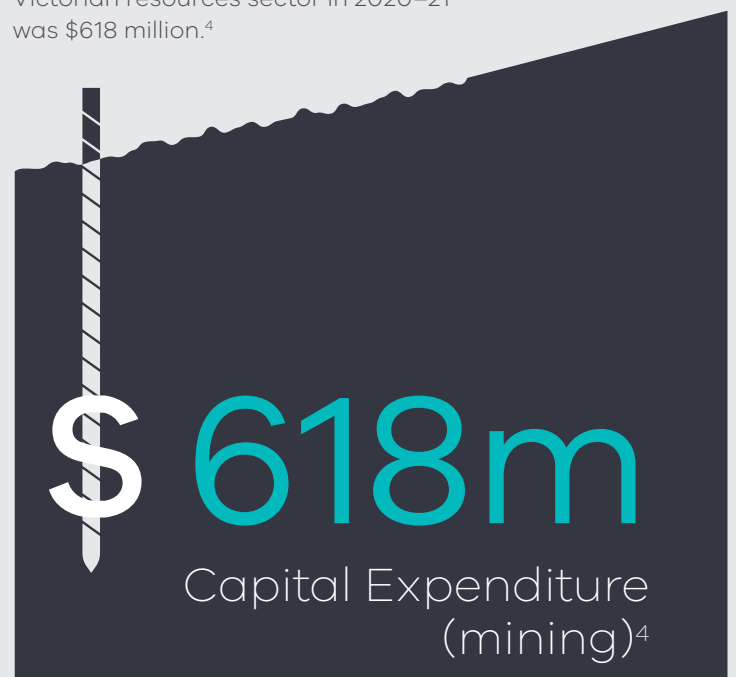
About the distance from Melbourne to Devonport in Tasmania

20.3% increase

Metres drilled<sup>2</sup>

467,585

Private new capital expenditure in the Victorian resources sector in 2020–21 was \$618 million.<sup>4</sup>

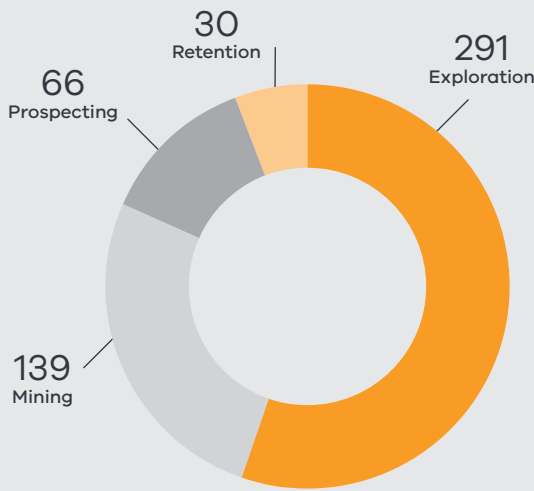


# Minerals licences

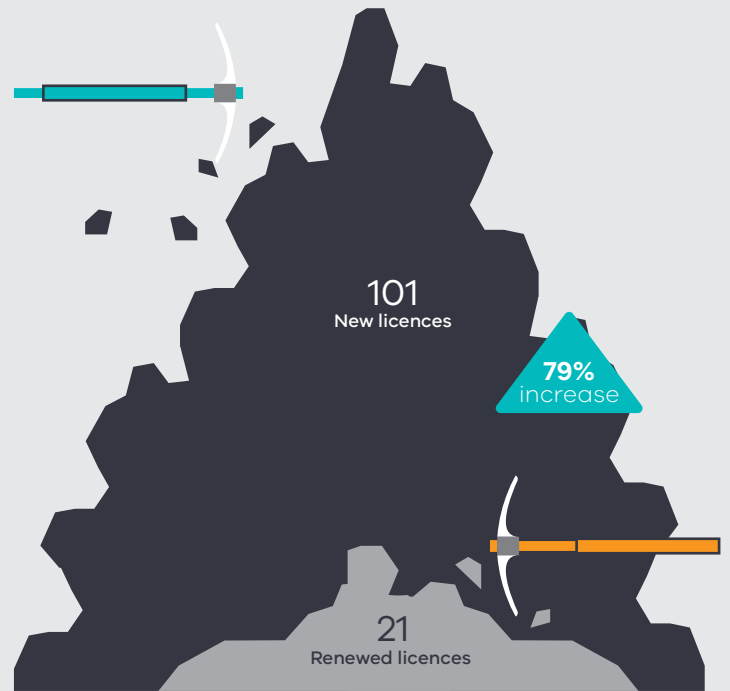
In 2020–21, there were 526 total current mineral licences across four tenement types (exploration, mining, prospecting and retention licences), 18% higher than the previous year.<sup>6</sup>

In 2020–21, 101 new licence applications were granted, a 114% increase from 47 in 2019–20.<sup>7</sup>

## 526 Licences<sup>6</sup>



## 122 Licence applications granted<sup>7</sup>



## Contribution of recreational prospectors<sup>5</sup>

### 13,835 New Miner's rights



## Employment

### Number of employed persons<sup>8</sup>



# 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.

Extractives production, by rock type<sup>9</sup>



Total extractives production<sup>10</sup>



**\$38.8b** Value of construction activity in Victoria<sup>11</sup>

# Gas

Victoria's gas production and underground gas storage<sup>12</sup>

Gas production  
**8.17**  
petajoules



Underground gas storage

**17.51** 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.