



AUSTRALIA'S MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES DIAMOND

Diamonds were first discovered in Australia while panning for gold near Bathurst in 1851. In 1979, a large diamond deposit was discovered in Western Australia. This deposit has been mined since 1983 and has produced more than 800 million carats of rough diamonds. Diamonds are used in jewellery, computer chip manufacturing, mining and resources exploration and machinery manufacturing. Australia is committed to the sustainable and ethical production of diamonds through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

4th LARGEST GLOBAL DIAMOND PRODUCER BY VOLUME (2015)



Resources:

25 years of production at 2014 production rates
\$4.3 million diamond exploration expenditure (2015-16)

\$383 million IN EXPORT VALUE (2015-16)

Largest SHARE OF WORLD'S DEMONSTRATED INDUSTRIAL DIAMOND RESOURCES, ACCOUNTING FOR 31% (2014)



Production:

14 million carats of diamonds, accounting for **11%** of global production (2015)



Exports:

14 million carats of diamonds exported (2015-16)



Did you know?

- Diamond is the hardest natural substance found on earth.
- Diamonds are not only used in jewellery but also have industrial applications in cutting, grinding, drilling and polishing.
- Australia is one of the 80 countries in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), which is a joint government, industry and civil society initiative designed to stem the flow of conflict diamonds.
- Since the inception of the KPCS in 2003 the trade in rough diamonds linked to funding conflict has fallen from around 15 per cent of all rough diamonds traded internationally to around 0.7 per cent.

Figure 1. Australia's diamond exports



Argyle Diamond Mine

- Argyle Diamonds is the only operating diamond mine in Australia.
- It is owned by Rio Tinto and is one of the largest diamond mines in the world.
- Argyle Diamond mine is the world's largest supplier of fancy coloured diamonds.
- Argyle produces over 90% of the world's supply of pink diamonds.

Figure 2. Australia's diamond deposits and operating mines

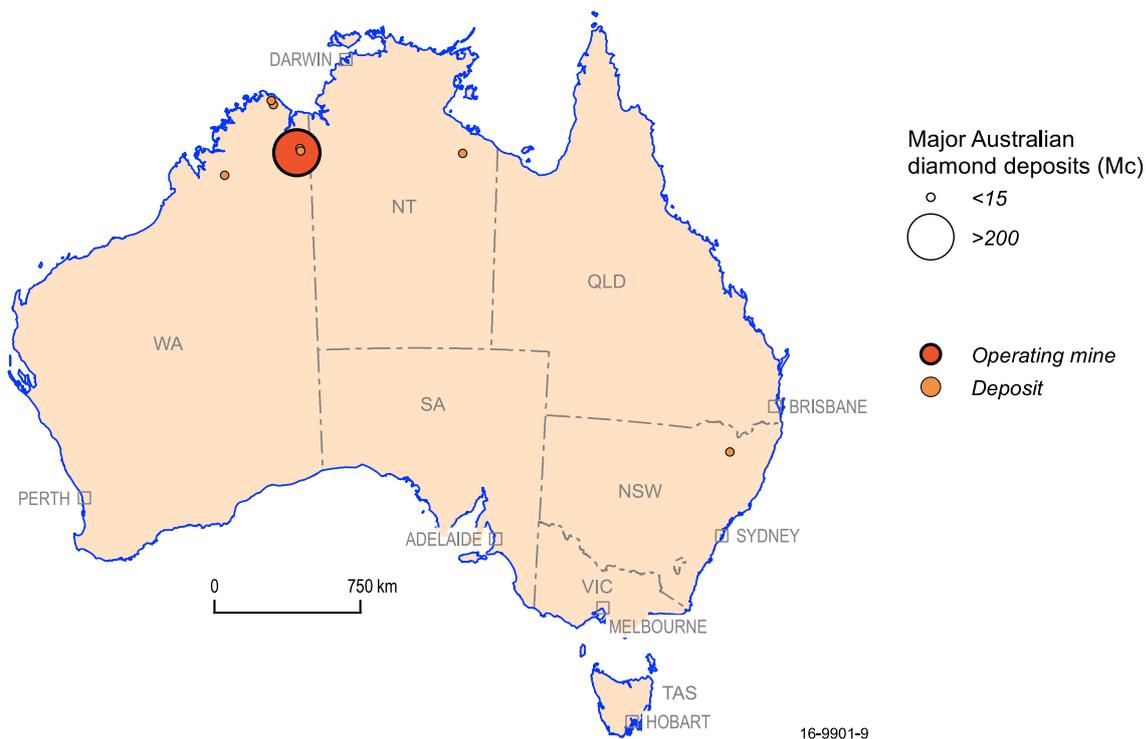


Table 1. World's largest diamond producers (2015)

MINED PRODUCTION	VOLUME (MILLION CARATS)
Russia	42
Botswana	21
Democratic Republic of the Congo	16
Australia	14
World Total	127

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Geoscience Australia, Kimberley Process, Office of the Chief Economist, Rio Tinto

For more information:

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science: www.industry.gov.au

Kimberley Process Certification Scheme:

www.industry.gov.au/resource/Mining/AustralianMineralCommodities/Diamonds/Pages/KimberleyProcessCertificationScheme.aspx

Geoscience Australia: www.ga.gov.au