Queensland is one of the world’s outstanding mineral and energy producing regions.

Within its boundaries, a wide variety of economically important mineral, coal and petroleum resources can be found. The best known resource regions are the:

- Surat and Bowen basins (southern central Queensland)—coal and coal seam gas
- Weipa region (north Queensland)—bauxite and kaolin
- North West Queensland Mineral Province—base metals, phosphate, gold, molybdenum, graphite and rare earths
- Charters Towers region (north-east Queensland)—gold and kaolin
- North West Queensland Mineral Province—base metals, phosphate, gold, molybdenum, graphite and rare earths
- Charters Towers region (north-east Queensland)—gold and limestone
- South-west Queensland region (Cooper and Eromanga basins)—oil and gas.

Queensland’s mining and petroleum industries are of prime economic importance to the state. In 2015–16 they produced commodities worth $24.97 billion. According to ABS statistics August 2016, Queensland’s exploration, mineral, coal and petroleum industries directly employed over 60,000 people.

**Metals, industrial minerals and rocks**

In 2015–16, Queensland ranked as one of the largest producers of lead, zinc, copper, bauxite and gold in Australia.

The North West Queensland Mineral Province dominates base metal production and is a major gold and phosphate rock producer. North Queensland is also a leading mineral province and an important producer of bauxite, silica sand, base metals, gold and, more recently, tungsten. Other commodities include scandium, molybdenum, chromium and rare earths. Industrial minerals produced in Queensland include bentonite, kaolin and ceramic clays, diatomite, dimension stone, dolomite, feldspar, gypsum, limestone, lump silica, magnesite, magnetite, mineral sands (rutile, limonite and zircon), perlite, salt and zeolite.

**Coal**

Queensland has a rich endowment of high-quality coal resources, with more than 32 billion tonnes (raw coal in-situ) having been identified by drilling operations. Identified resources of coking coal amount to approximately 8.7 billion tonnes, of which about 4.8 billion tonnes are suitable for open-cut mining.

Queensland’s world-class coal mines and infrastructure, including electrified rail links from the coalfields, allow efficient production and transport of coal to six coal-export terminals. At these terminals, ships of up to 230,000 deadweight tonnes load export coal for distribution to the world market.

Queensland’s saleable coal production in 2015–16 amounted to a total of 242.2 million tonnes (Mt). Exports totaling 225.5 Mt, worth $24.5 billion free-on-board, were made to 30 countries. An additional 23.5 million tonnes were supplied to domestic markets.

**Petroleum**

Queensland has sedimentary basins ranging in age from Precambrian to Tertiary with a variety of geological settings and histories. In Queensland, the systematic exploration for petroleum commenced in 1906, and the state remains largely under-explored, with a low well density in many of the highly prospective areas.

Exploration has resulted in the discovery of commercial petroleum accumulations in the Adavale Basin, the Bowen and Surat basins, and the Cooper and Eromanga basins. More than 4000 km of transmission pipelines connect producing gas fields to markets within Queensland, particularly south-east Queensland, Gladstone and Mount Isa.

Since the mid-1990s, coal seam gas (CSG) has grown to become the dominant source of gas, supplying over 90 per cent of the Queensland market and over 99 per cent of remaining proved and probable gas reserves. Queensland now has three operating LNG plants located in Gladstone.