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## COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES

### DIVISION OF MINERALS

# NEVADA EXPLORATION SURVEY 1998

by

**Doug Driesner, Director of Mining Services**

**October, 1999**

# NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES

## DIVISION OF MINERALS

The Nevada Division of Minerals, a part of the Commission on Mineral Resources, is responsible for administering programs and activities to promote, advance, and protect mining and the development and production of petroleum and geothermal resources in Nevada. The Division's mission is to conduct activities to further the responsible development and production of the State's mineral resources to benefit and promote the welfare of the people of Nevada. The seven-member Commission on Mineral Resources is a public body appointed by the Governor and directs mineral-related policy for the Division and advises the Governor and Legislature on matters relating to mineral resources. The Division focuses its efforts on three main areas: Industry relations and public affairs; regulation of oil, gas, and geothermal drilling activities and well operations; and abandoned mine lands.

The agency is involved in a wide array of activities relating to mineral development. Staff compiles annual data on all active mines in Nevada and maintains the State's mine registry. Information concerning mining operations and production is made available to the public through this yearly publication. Educational documents and materials concerning many aspects of the minerals industry are also produced. The Division participates in governmental activities affecting policies and laws concerning the minerals industry and resource development. The Division administers the State's reclamation bond pool.

The Division is responsible for permitting, inspecting, and monitoring all oil, gas, and geothermal drilling activities on both public and private lands in Nevada. Staff also monitors production of oil, gas, and geothermal resources to insure proper management and conservation. The Administrator is the Governor's Official Representative to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission.

The Division's abandoned mine lands program provides for public safety by identifying and ranking dangerous conditions at mines that are no longer operating, and by securing dangerous orphaned mine openings. The program continually urges the public to recognize and avoid hazardous abandoned mines.

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Doug Driesner, Director, Mining Services  
Walt Lombardo, Chief, Southern Nevada Operations, Sr. Geologist  
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Wanda Martin, Program Officer II  
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George Bishop, Field Specialist, Abandoned Mine Lands

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## **SUMMARY OF THE NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS EXPLORATION SURVEY FOR 1998**

The Division of Minerals has conducted its fifth annual exploration survey in an effort to determine the level of exploration activity in Nevada and to investigate what factors are influencing these levels.

Responses were received from 47 companies. Thirty nine of them focused their efforts on precious metals, three were focused on other metals, and five were focused on industrial minerals.

The main yardstick of exploration activity is exploration expenditures. In 1998, the respondents to this survey spent \$90.8 million on Nevada projects, down \$40.0 million from the \$138.8 million spent in 1997, but fairly close to the \$94.1 million that the 1997 survey had projected would be spent in 1998. Current projections for 1999 indicate a continuing, but less precipitous drop in spending to \$88.1 million. By comparison, spending in the rest of the U.S. (Non-Nevada) was reported to be \$28.5 million in 1998, down significantly from the \$87.6 million spent in 1997. Respondents reported their worldwide spending in 1998 was \$389.6 million, down sharply from the \$1.082 billion reported to have been spent in 1997.

Another key measurement of exploration activity is the number of geologists employed. Respondents reported 214 geologists on the payroll for Nevada projects in 1998, down sharply from the 309 reported in 1997.

The respondents reported holding 53,292 claims in Nevada in 1998. According to the Nevada State Office of the BLM, approximately 111,000 claims were held in Nevada as of October 1, 1999, thus the respondents to this survey hold about half of the claims in Nevada. The respondents also reported holding 15,743 claims in other states, so over 77 per cent of the respondent's claims are located in Nevada.

A composite of all respondent's ranking of factors influencing their level of exploration activity is listed below in order of decreasing importance.

- Existence of favorable geology
- Commodity prices
- Uncertainty of permitting time frames
- Corporate demands
- Uncertainty over mining law reform
- Actual length of permitting time frames
- Wilderness study areas
- Federal claim maintenance fees
- Announcements of new discoveries
- Land exchanges/withdrawals
- Changes in foreign mining laws
- Mergers

Explorationists, particularly in Nevada, face the difficult challenge of replacing reserves lost to production. Approximately 44 per cent of the respondents were able to replace all of their Nevada production with newly found Nevada reserves. Reserve replacement was done by both expansions of existing mines and grass roots efforts.

More respondents held a pessimistic than optimistic attitude concerning the future of domestic exploration. Nearly 35 per cent were pessimistic while 26 per cent were optimistic and 39 per cent were neutral.

Mineral exploration is a small but clearly important part of Nevada's economy. Nevada has favorable geology, a skilled work force, and good infrastructure, but Nevada does not have a monopoly of exploration targets. Nevada and the rest of the United States need to have a favorable political climate combined with reasonable laws to insure that mineral exploration, and the production that follows, will continue to be viable.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In early 1999, the Division of Minerals conducted its fifth annual survey of exploration companies engaged in projects or holding claims in Nevada. Like previous years, the purpose of the survey was to determine current and projected levels of exploration activity and to investigate what factors are influencing these levels. This survey is regarded as a portion of the official state mine registry, making the individual responses confidential. No information will be released that could be traced to an individual respondent.

One hundred and forty questionnaires were sent out in March, 1999. Responses were received from 47 companies. The Division appreciates the efforts made by those who responded. Of the 47 respondents, 39 (83 %) were focused on precious metals, 3 (6 %) were focused on other metals, and 5 (10%) were focused on industrial minerals.

The number of respondents has remained relatively stable over the years. In 1995, 46 responses were received, 47 in 1996, 49 in 1997, 51 in 1998, and 47 in this survey. Most, but not all, of the companies responding to the surveys are the same year after year. Thus, while it is desirable to compare trends from one year to the next, this must be done on a general, rather than an exact basis. Table 1 on page 7 shows the breakdown of respondents from previous surveys.

The main topics covered by the survey include exploration expenses, geologists employed, number of claims held, factors that influence a respondent's level of activity, success at reserve replacement, type of reserve replacement, and overall attitude toward domestic exploration. In addition, the questionnaire asked how the Division could better encourage exploration in Nevada, and how the Division could better serve the explorationists.

The author appreciates the efforts of Alan Coyner, the Division Administrator, and Jonathan Price, the State Geologist, for their critical reviews of the manuscript. Deborah Selig of the Division's Las Vegas office is thanked for assistance in the preparation of the graphs.

## **EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES**

Exploration expenditure is regarded as one of the two main indicators of exploration activity, the other being the number of geologists employed. Exploration expenditures reported for Nevada projects totaled \$90.8 million for 1998, down \$40.0 million from the \$138.8 million spent in 1997, but fairly close to the \$94.1 million that the 1997 survey projected would be spent in 1998. Current projections for 1999 spending indicate a continuing, but less precipitous drop to \$88.1 million. Respondents were asked to provide figures for planned year 2000 activity, but very few were able to do so. As in previous years, the survey illustrates the importance of mineral exploration to Nevada's economy, but also shows that a great deal of volatility and uncertainty exists.

Spending in the rest of the U.S. (non-Nevada) was reported to be \$28.5 million in 1998, down significantly from the \$87.6 million spent in 1997. This spending amount is also lower than the \$42.2 million that the 1997 respondents had projected would be spent in 1998. Projections for domestic (non-Nevada) spending in 1999 show a slight increase to \$31.8 million. Nevada's share of domestic exploration spending reached 76 percent in 1998, up from 61 percent in 1997. It is projected to be 73 percent in 1999.

Respondents reported their worldwide spending in 1998 was \$389.6 million, down very significantly from the \$1.082 billion that was reported to have been spent in 1997. Projections for 1999 show a continuing drop to \$337.0 million. Very few of the respondents were able to provide estimates for year 2000 spending. Nevada's percentage of worldwide spending based on the results of this survey, was 23 in 1998 and is projected to be 26 in 1999. It should be pointed out that this survey is biased toward Nevada, as companies without any Nevada activity are not polled.

In previous surveys, a distinction existed between the companies with Nevada exploration budgets greater than or equal to \$1 million (the GE companies), and those with budgets under \$1 million (the LT companies). While there are still companies with large budgets and small budgets, the gap between them has all but ceased to exist. Graph 1 on page 9 shows the distribution of respondent's budgets. Of the 47 respondents, 15 were GE companies, and 32 were LT companies. The GE companies accounted for 95 percent of Nevada's exploration spending in 1998. The GE companies accounted for most of the domestic and global spending as well, with 88 percent and 82 percent respectively. Graph 2 on page 10 shows the breakdown of exploration spending for 1998 and projected for 1999. Table 2 on page 7 shows the exploration expenditures reported in previous surveys from 1994 through 1998.

The average Nevada spending per respondent was \$1.9 million in 1998, down from \$2.7 million in 1997. The 1998 average spending for GE respondents was \$5.8 million, while the LT respondents averaged \$125,000. Projections for 1999 show average spending per respondent to remain steady at \$1.9 million. Graph 3 on page 11 illustrates the average spending per respondent.

## **GEOLOGISTS EMPLOYED**

The second main indicator of exploration activity is the number of geologists employed. Not surprisingly, the trend of employment follows the spending trend closely. Unlike previous surveys, where respondents were unable to provide sufficient information on domestic and global employment to report meaningful comparisons, the respondents to this year's survey were able to provide more complete information.

Respondents reported 214 geologists employed for Nevada projects in 1998, down sharply from the 309 reported in 1997, but a close match to the 228 projected in last year's survey. Projections for 1999 indicate a continued decline to 195 geologists employed in Nevada. Of the 214 geologists in 1998, 187 were employed by the GE companies and 27 were employed by the LT companies. Graph 4 on page 12 shows the data for geologist

employment in Nevada in 1998 and projected for 1999. Table 3 on page 8 shows the number of geologists employed reported in previous surveys from 1994 through 1998.

Worldwide, respondents reported 823 geologists employed in 1998, and projected a drop to 725 in 1999. Twenty six percent of the respondent's geologists were working on Nevada projects in 1998. A slight rise to 26 percent is projected for 1999. In the United States (including Nevada), respondents reported 294 geologists in 1998 and project 265 in 1999. Nevada's share of the domestic geologist employment was 73 percent in 1998 and is projected to be 74 in 1999.

## **EXPENDITURES PER GEOLOGIST**

In Nevada, the GE companies spent considerably more per geologist than the LT companies. In 1998, the GE companies spent \$464,000 per geologist in Nevada, compared to \$149,000 for the LT companies. For 1999, the GE companies project spending \$498,000 per geologist, compared to \$149,000 for the LT companies. Worldwide, the expenditures per geologist in 1998 were higher with \$558,000 for the GE companies and \$279,000 for the LT companies, and projected amounts in 1999 of \$527,000 for the GE companies and \$293,000 for the LT companies. These figures indicate, in part, the added expense of maintaining a geologist overseas compared to Nevada.

## **MINING CLAIMS**

The number of mining claims held in Nevada and the rest of the U.S. has dropped since the enactment of the \$100 per claim federal maintenance fee in 1992. As of September 7, 1999, according to the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, approximately 111,000 claims were held in Nevada. The \$100 annual maintenance fee had been paid for 107,000 claims, and the small miner exemption had been filed for about 4,000 claims.

Respondents to this survey reported holding 53,292 claims in Nevada and 69,035 total in the United States in 1998. Projections for 1999 indicate a continuing drop in claims to 46,071 in Nevada and 57,172 in the United States. In 1998, respondents held 77 percent of their claims in Nevada. This percentage is projected to increase in 1999 to 81, even though the total number of claims is projected to decrease.

As has been the case in previous surveys, the GE companies hold considerably more claims than the LT companies. In 1998 in Nevada, the GE companies held 43,584 claims compared to 9,708 for the LT companies, whereas in the United States as a whole, the GE companies held 49,137 compared to 19,898 for the LT companies. Thus, the GE respondents held 89 percent of their claims in Nevada, compared to only 49 percent for the LT respondents. For 1999, the GE respondents anticipate holding 36,748 claims in Nevada compared to 9,323 for the LT respondents. For the United States as a whole, the GE respondents anticipate holding 41,094 claims compared to 16,078 for the LT respondents. In 1999, the GE respondents project to hold 89 percent of their claims in

Nevada compared with 58 percent for the LT respondents. Graph 5 on page 13 illustrates the breakdown of the claims held by respondents. Table 4 on page 8 shows the claims held by respondents reported in previous surveys from 1994 through 1998.

## **FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY**

As in previous surveys, this survey asked respondents to rank the factors influencing their level of exploration activity. The composite of all respondent's ranking of factors is listed below in order of decreasing importance.

- Existence of favorable geology
- Commodity prices
- Uncertainty of permitting time frames
- Corporate demands
- Uncertainty over mining law reform
- Actual length of permitting time frames
- Wilderness study areas
- Federal claim maintenance fees
- Announcements of new discoveries
- Land exchanges/withdrawals
- Changes in foreign mining laws
- Mergers

The ranking of the various factors is similar to previous surveys, but not identical. Existence of favorable geology retained its position as the most important factor, but commodity prices was a close second. Uncertainty of permitting time frames maintained the third position, but corporate demands moved up from fifth last year to fourth this year. Land exchanges and mergers are very important factors to certain respondents, but ranked low overall.

The GE and LT respondents differed in their opinions of importance of factors. For the LT respondents, commodity prices ranked higher than existence of favorable geology. Corporate demands ranked third among the GE respondents, but was sixth for the LT respondents. The federal claim maintenance fees ranked eighth for the LT respondents, but ranked last for the GE respondents. Graphs 6, 7, and 8 on pages 14, 15, and 16 show the relative importance of the various factors for all respondents, the GE respondents, and the LT respondents, respectively.

## **REPLACEMENT OF RESERVES**

Respondents were asked if they are replacing their production with newly found reserves. In this question a "yes" response indicates total replacement of reserves lost to production for that respondent. The response from the smallest company carries the same weight as the largest company. Thus, the percentages reported refer to the number of respondents replacing their reserves and not to the amount of reserves being replaced. Also, a number of the respondents are strictly in the exploration business and have no

production of their own. Only the respondents who have production were evaluated for this portion of the survey.

On a worldwide basis, 75 percent of respondents reported that they had replaced their production with newly found reserves. The GE respondents reported a higher success rate than the LT respondents with 91 percent and 65 percent, respectively.

In the U.S., including Nevada, 54 percent of the respondents reported being able to replace their reserves. Again, the GE respondents did better than the LT respondents, but only slightly, with 56 percent and 53 percent, respectively.

In Nevada, reserve replacement is a continuous challenge due to the high rate of production. Overall, 43 percent of the respondents replaced their reserves in 1998. An even fifty percent of the GE respondents replaced their reserves, while only 38 percent of the LT respondents did. Graphs 9, 10, and 11 on pages 17, 18, and 19 show the success of the respondents at replacing their reserves worldwide, domestically, and in Nevada , respectively.

The method of reserve replacement differed between the GE and LT respondents. Fifty percent of the GE respondents replaced reserves via expansions of existing mines, while only 23 percent of the LT respondents did. Among the LT respondents 54 percent relied on grass roots methods, compared to 21 percent of the GE respondents. About a quarter of both GE and LT respondents relied on both methods. Graph 12 on page 20 shows the methods of reserve replacement.

## **ATTITUDES**

More respondents held a pessimistic than optimistic attitude concerning the future of domestic exploration. Overall, 35 percent were pessimistic, 26 percent were optimistic, and 39 percent were neutral. The GE respondents tended to be more optimistic (40 percent) than pessimistic (7 percent), with the remaining 53 percent being neutral. The LT respondents were less optimistic (18 percent) than pessimistic (50 percent), with the remaining 32 percent being neutral. Graph 13 on page 21 illustrates the attitudes of respondents.

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

This year's survey asked two additional questions: 1) What activities would you like to see the Division of Minerals do to encourage exploration in Nevada? and 2) How can the Division of Minerals better serve you?

Thirty five respondents gave an answer to the first question. Thirteen of those answers involved the relationship with federal and other regulatory agencies, eleven involved providing information and public awareness, seven involved permitting, and four indicated satisfaction with the current level of activity.

### Relationship with federal and other regulatory agencies

- advocate the removal of the current Secretary of Interior (5)
- promote reasonable regulation of industry (5)
- advocate removal of restrictions for exploration in wilderness study areas (1)
- propose credits for reclamation of previously disturbed areas (1)
- urge the BLM to stop stalling the patent process and remove the emphasis on putting a limit of 40 years on reserves (1)

### Providing information and public awareness

- provide updated maps showing withdrawn areas, including the mineral potential in areas subject to withdrawal (6)
- increase exposure on the Internet (5)
- tabulate the newly discovered ounces of mineable gold over the past 10 years (1)
- develop a voluntary data repository program with a credit going towards the \$100 federal claim maintenance fee (1)

### Permitting

- promote a simplification, clarification, streamlining, etc of the permitting process (7)
- compare the permitting process in Nevada with that in other mining countries, such as Chile and Mexico (1)

Seventeen responses were received to the second question “How can the Division of Minerals better serve you?” Eleven involved providing additional education and public awareness about minerals and mining, two involved making the permitting process easier, two involved more lobbying in Washington D.C., one involved keeping up the political influence in land matters, and one wanted restrictions eliminated for exploring on wilderness study areas.

The Division appreciates the responses to these questions and will continue to conduct activities to further the responsible development and production of the State’s mineral resources to benefit and promote the welfare of the people of Nevada.

## **CONCLUSION**

Nevada, with its favorable geology and history of production, has been and remains a good place to explore for mineral commodities. Nevada does not, however, hold a monopoly of exploration targets. Both of our key indicators, exploration expenditures and geologists employed, have continued to decrease. Since the survey was conducted the price of gold has dropped to a twenty year low at about \$250 per ounce and rebounded to about \$300 per ounce. The increase in price is likely to have a positive impact in the short term on precious metals exploration globally as well as in Nevada. However, this volatility in price coupled with political uncertainty may continue to have a negative impact on Nevada. Since commodity prices cannot be controlled, Nevada needs to maintain a reasonable regulatory environment that will allow mineral exploration, and the production that follows, to continue to be viable.

**TABLE 1****Number and Type of Respondents**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
LT Companies	19	23	13	25	32
GE Companies	27	24	36	26	15
Total Respondents	46	47	49	51	47

**TABLE 2****Exploration Expenditures in Millions of Dollars**

	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Expl Exp - LT</b>					
Nevada	\$33.5	\$2.9	\$0.7	\$4.2	\$4.0
Rest of U.S.	\$7.3	\$4.7	\$1.7	\$8.7	\$3.4
Outside U.S.	\$49.4	\$6.8	\$2.3	\$42.8	\$61.9
Total Worldwide	\$90.2	\$14.4	\$4.7	\$55.7	\$69.3
<b>Expl Exp - GE</b>					
Nevada	\$120.5	\$137.9	\$120.2	\$134.6	\$86.6
Rest of U.S.	\$44.7	\$51.5	\$35.7	\$78.9	\$25.1
Outside U.S.	\$202.6	\$589.7	\$753.5	\$812.8	\$208.4
Total Worldwide	\$367.8	\$779.1	\$909.4	\$1,026.3	\$320.3
<b>Expl Exp - All</b>					
Nevada	\$154.0	\$140.8	\$120.9	\$138.8	\$90.8
Rest of U.S.	\$52.0	\$56.2	\$37.4	\$87.6	\$28.5
Outside U.S.	\$252.0	\$596.5	\$755.8	\$855.6	\$270.3
Total Worldwide	\$458.0	\$793.5	\$914.1	\$1,082.0	\$389.6

**TABLE 3**  
**Geologists Employed by Respondents**

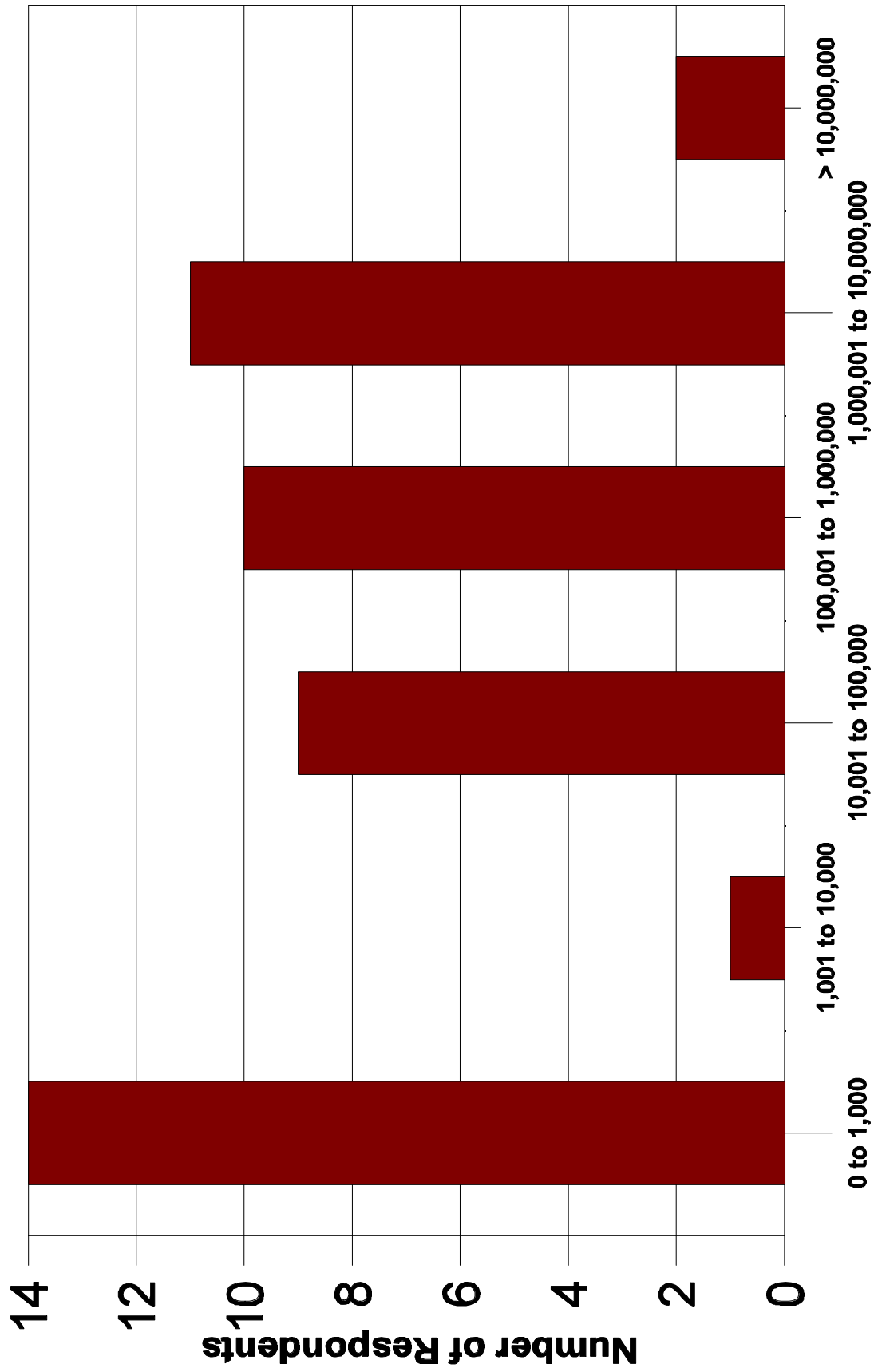
	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Geol Empl - LT</b>					
Nevada	74	30	24	38	27
Rest of U.S.	49	10	NA	NA	40
Outside U.S.	103	388	NA	NA	182
Total Worldwide	226	428	NA	NA	249
<b>Geol Empl - GE</b>					
Nevada	248	239	249	271	187
Rest of U.S.	135	139	NA	NA	40
Outside U.S.	454	1182	NA	NA	347
Total Worldwide	837	1560	NA	NA	574
<b>Geol Empl - ALL</b>					
Nevada	322	269	273	309	214
Rest of U.S.	184	149	NA	NA	80
Outside U.S.	557	1570	NA	NA	529
Total Worldwide	1063	1988	NA	NA	823

**TABLE 4**  
**Mining Claims Held by Respondents**

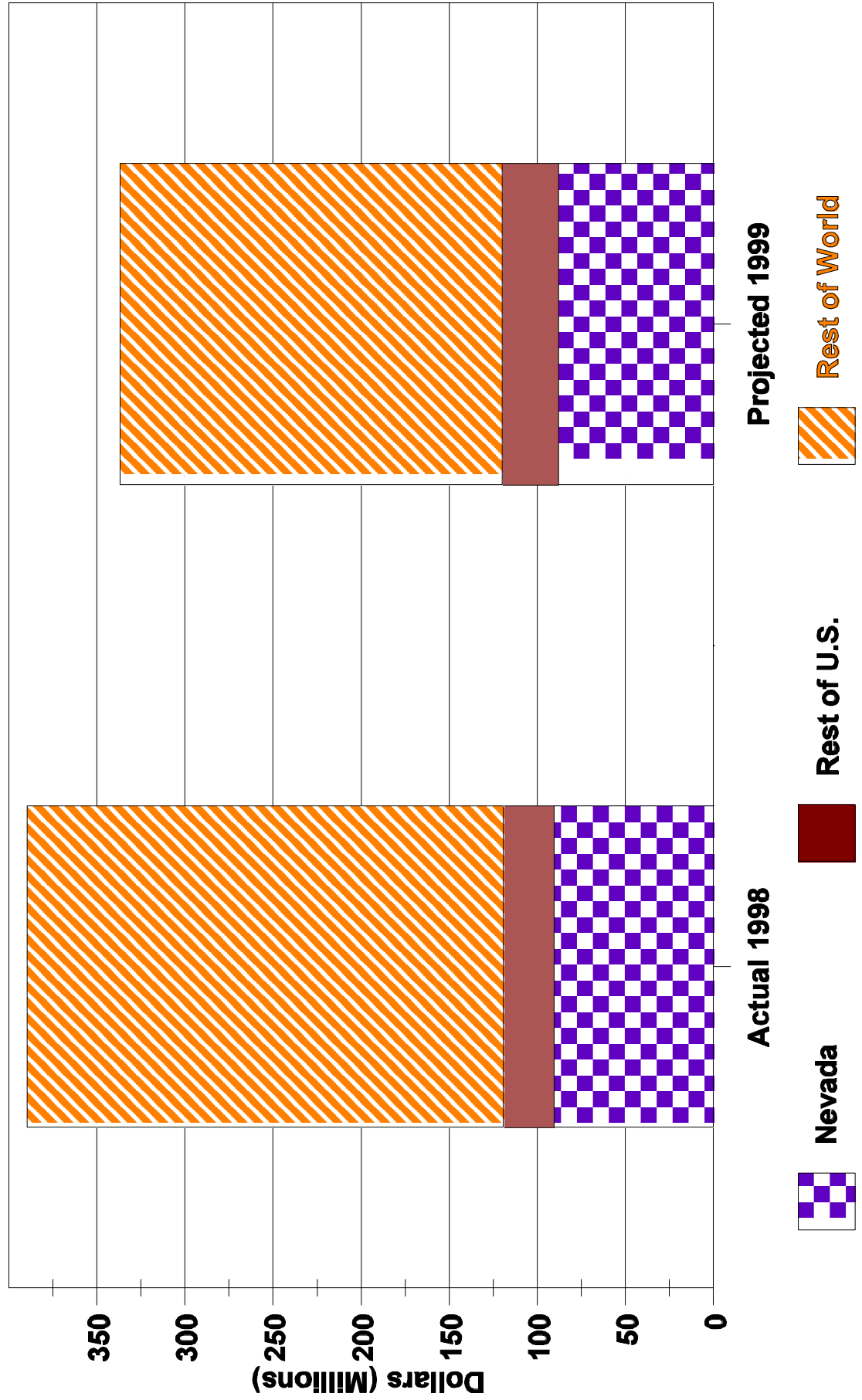
	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Mining Claims - LT</b>					
Nevada	NA	6,435	2,580	12,150	9,708
Rest of U.S.	NA	4,717	1,670	9,941	10,190
Total Claims	19,097	11,152	4,250	22,091	19,898
<b>Mining Claims - GE</b>					
Nevada	NA	53,069	63,349	77,683	43,584
Rest of U.S.	NA	22,397	17,352	13,839	5,553
Total Claims	65,129	75,466	80,701	91,522	49,137
<b>Mining Claims - ALL</b>					
Nevada	NA	59,504	65,929	89,833	53,292
Rest of U.S.	NA	27,114	19,022	23,780	15,743
Total Claims	84,226	86,618	84,951	113,613	69,035

Graph 1

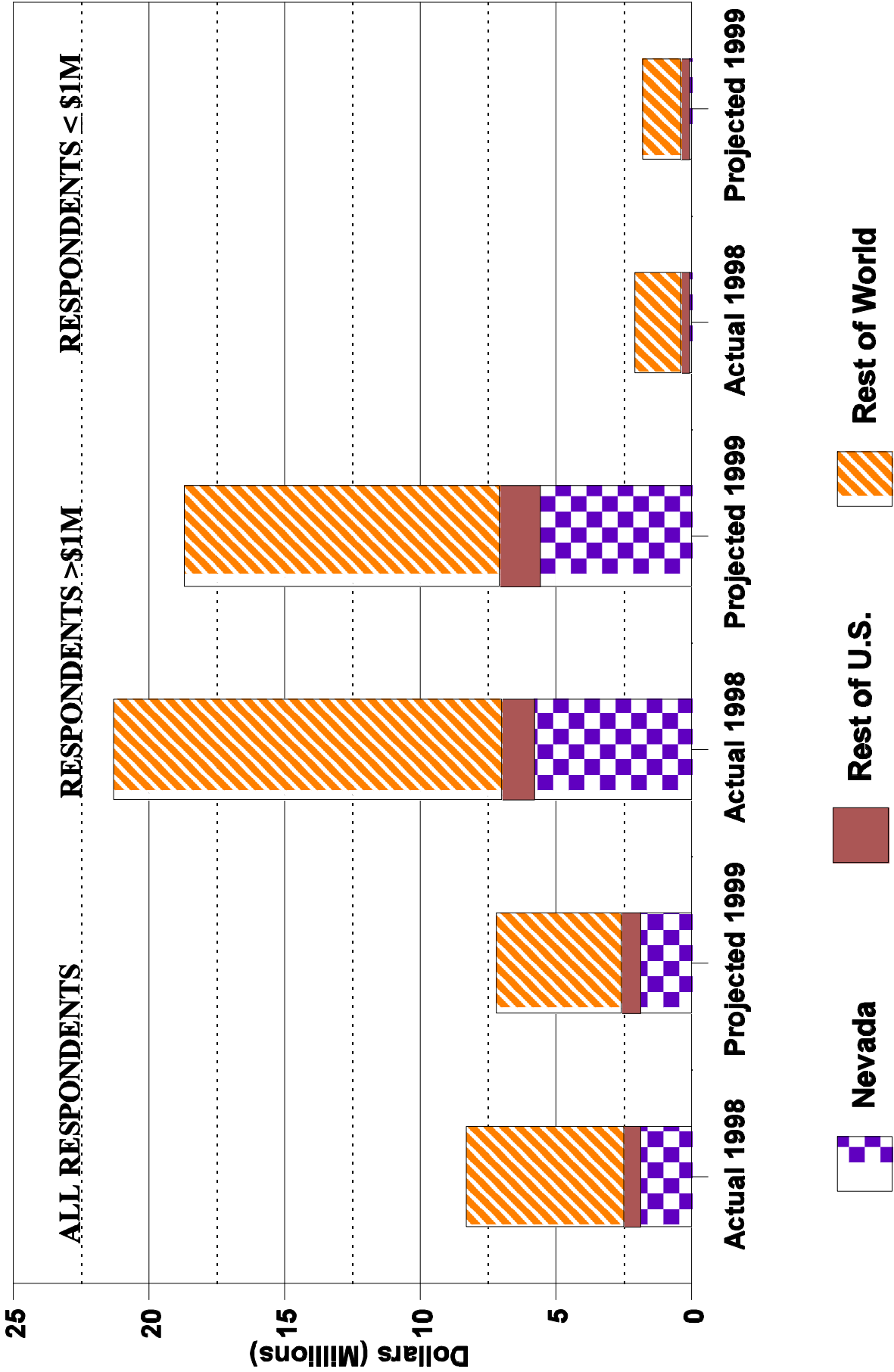
# Exploration Dollars Spent in Nevada in 1998



**Graph 2**  
**Total Exploration Spending 1998**

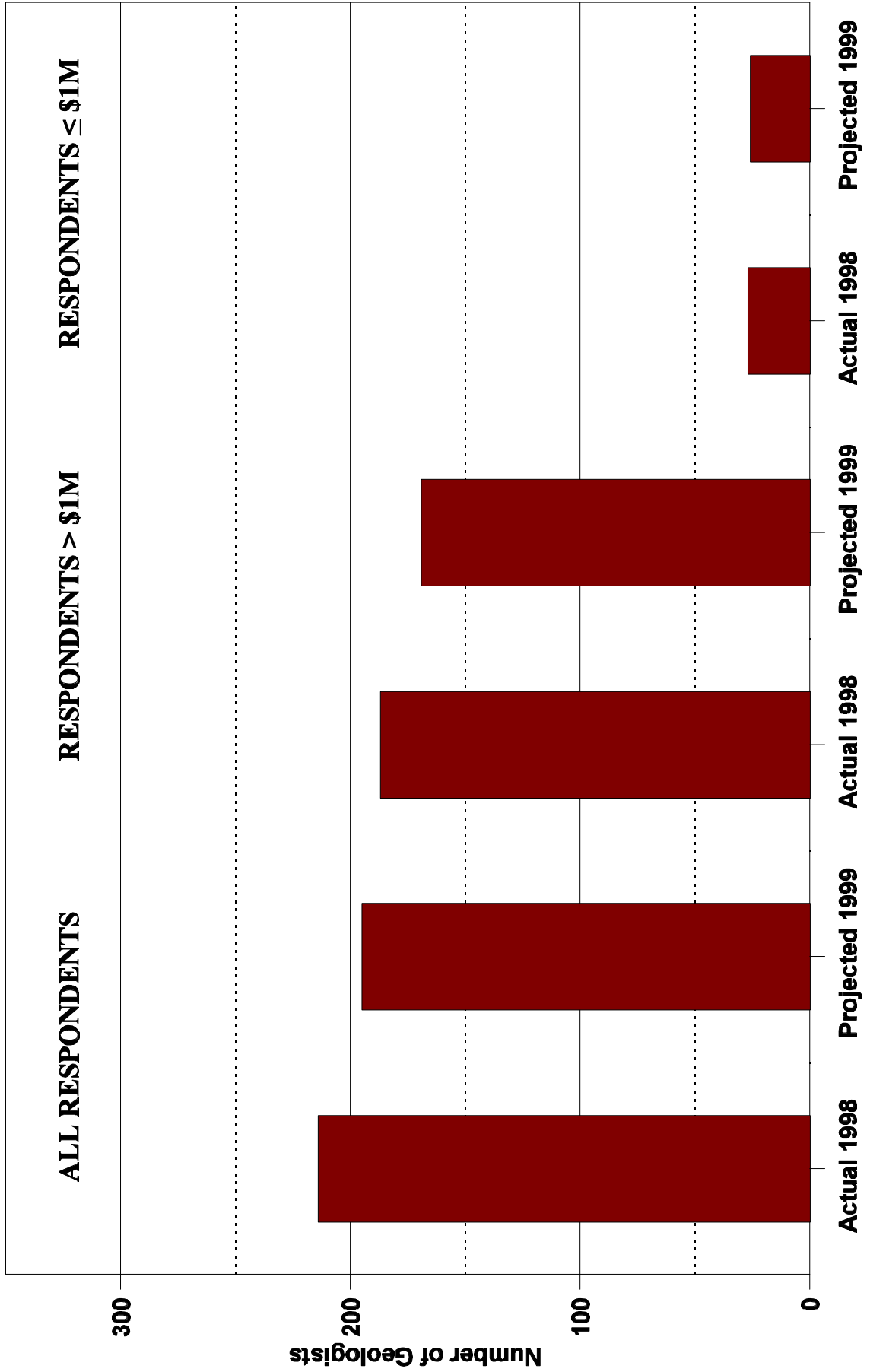


**Graph 3**  
**AVERAGE SPENDING PER RESPONDENT 1998**

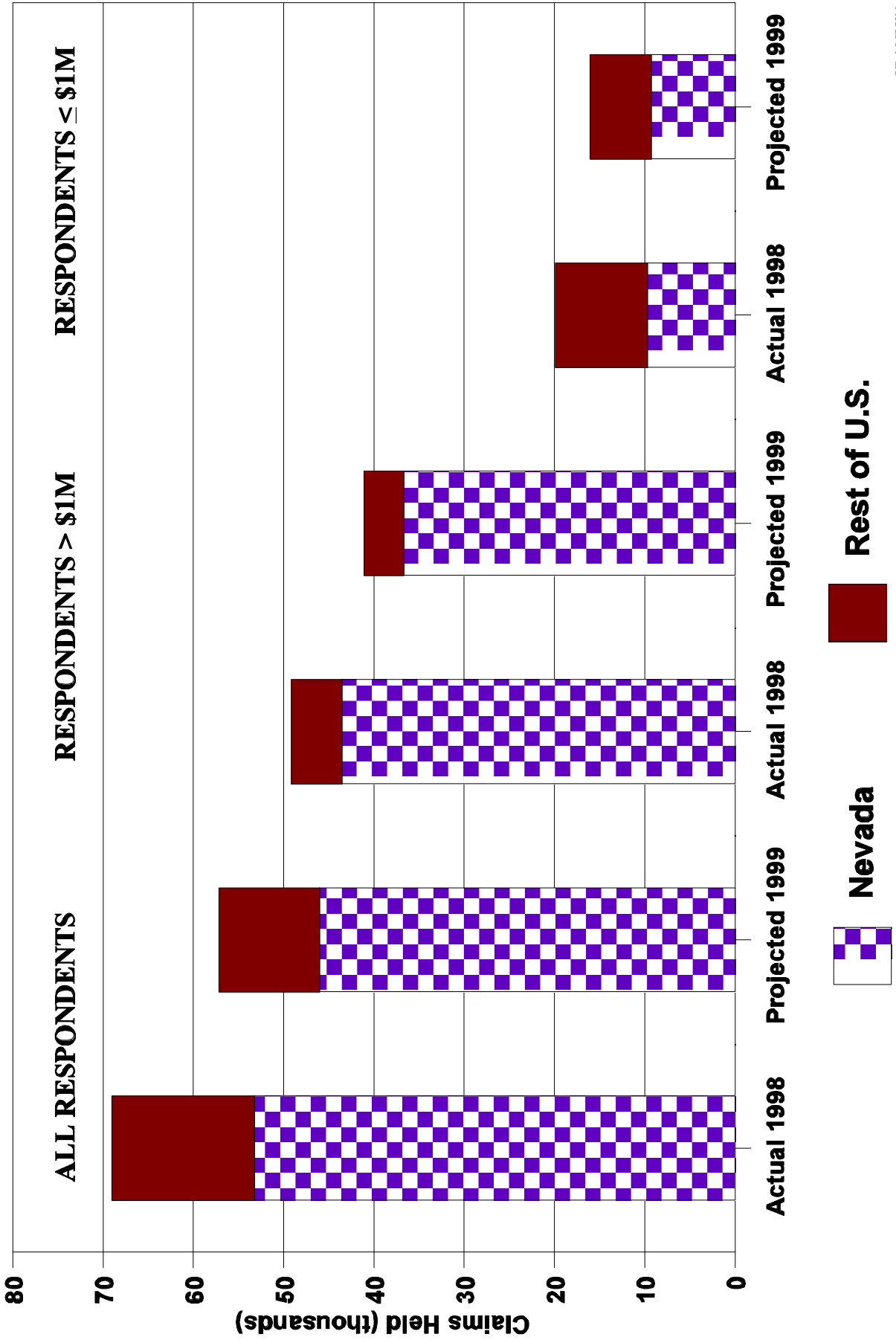


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# Graph 4 EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS EMPLOYED IN NEVADA 1998

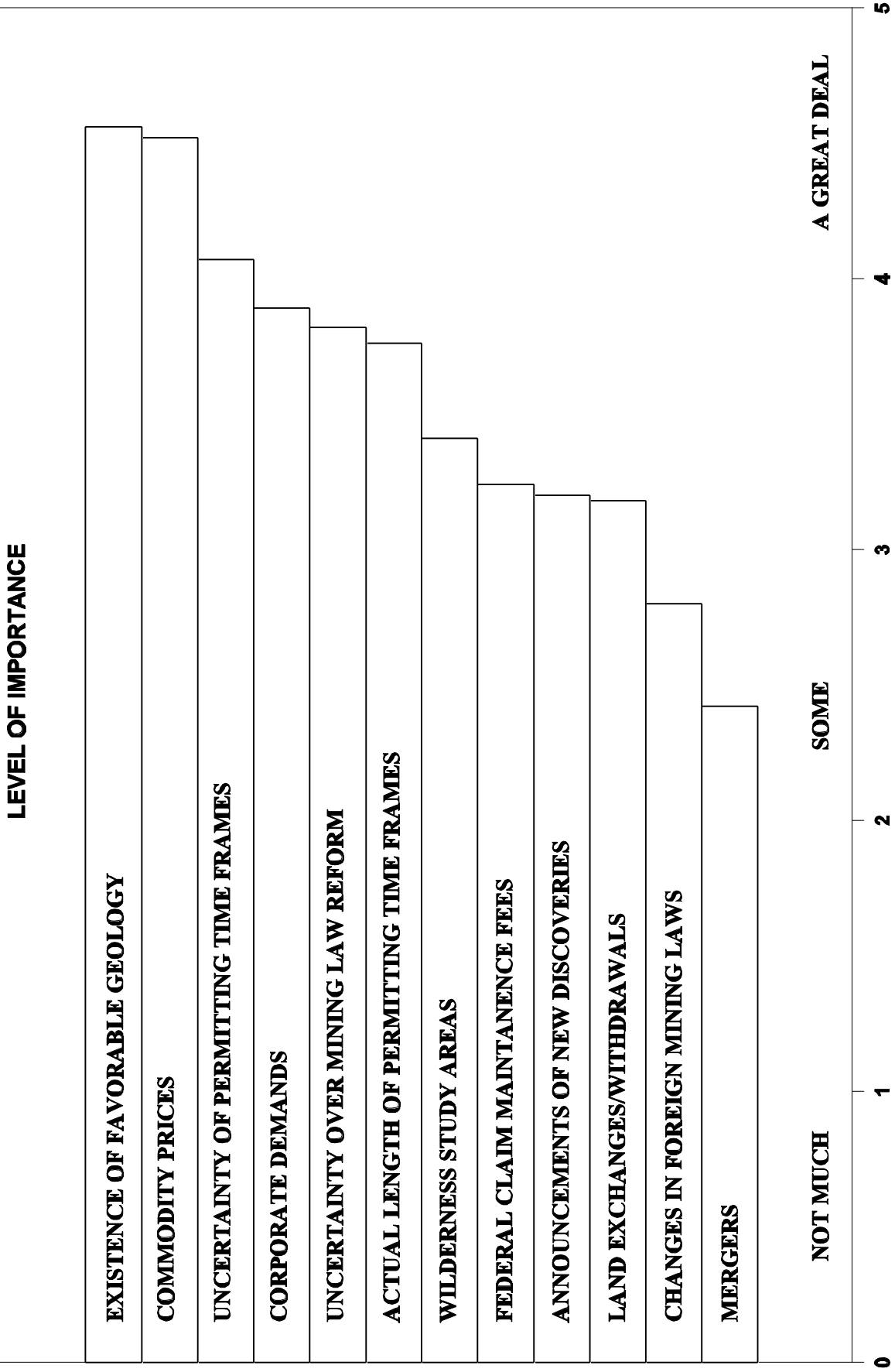


**Graph 5**  
**NUMBER OF CLAIMS HELD 1998**



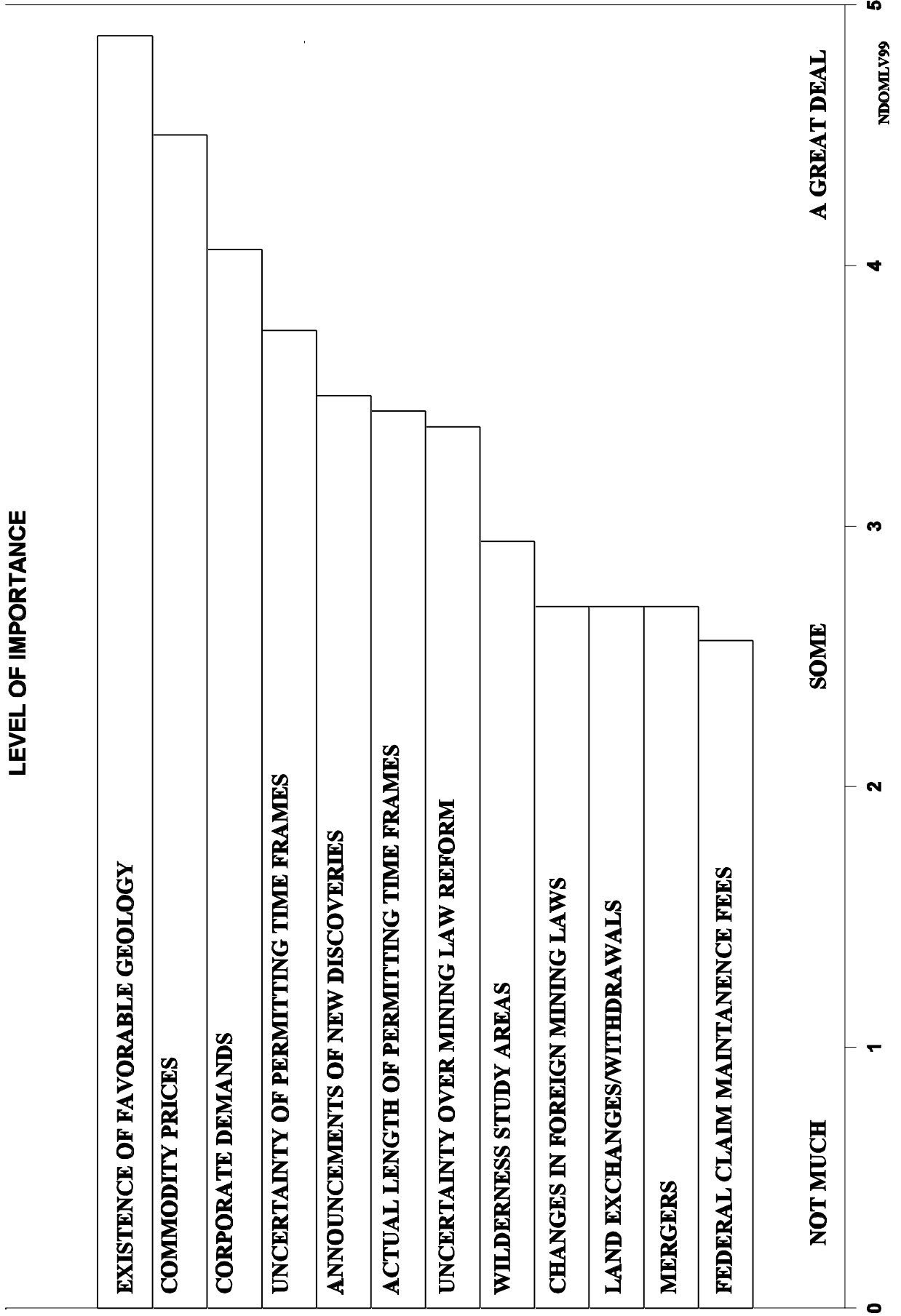
# Graph 6

## FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY 1998 - ALL RESPONDENTS



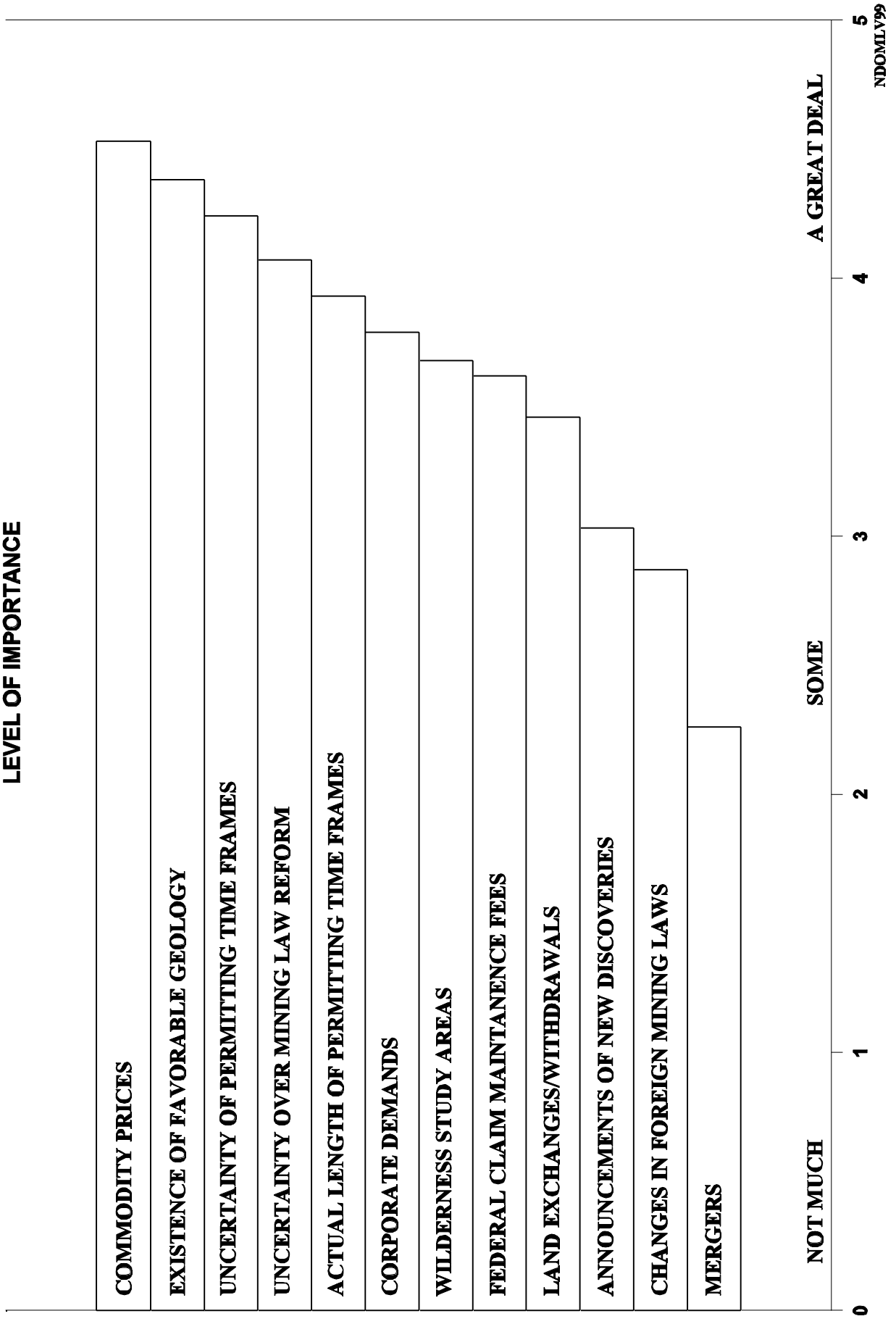
# Graph 7

## FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY 1998 - RESPONDENTS >= \$1 MILLION LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE



**Graph 8**

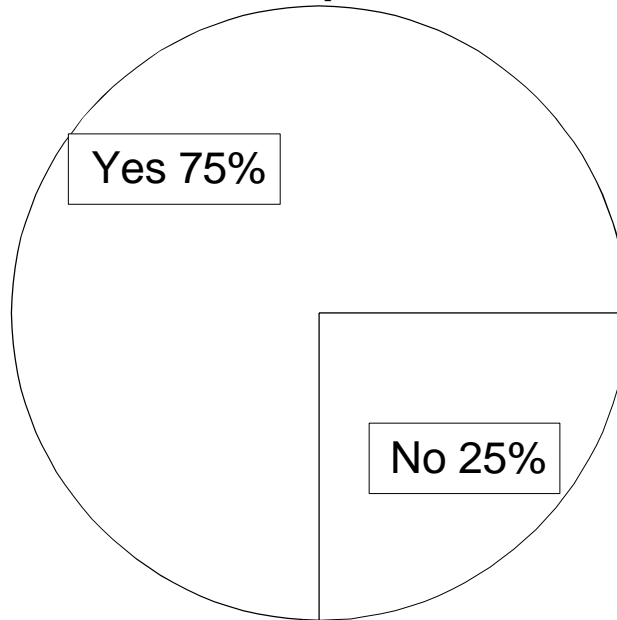
**FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY 1998 - RESPONDENTS < \$1 MILLION**  
**LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE**



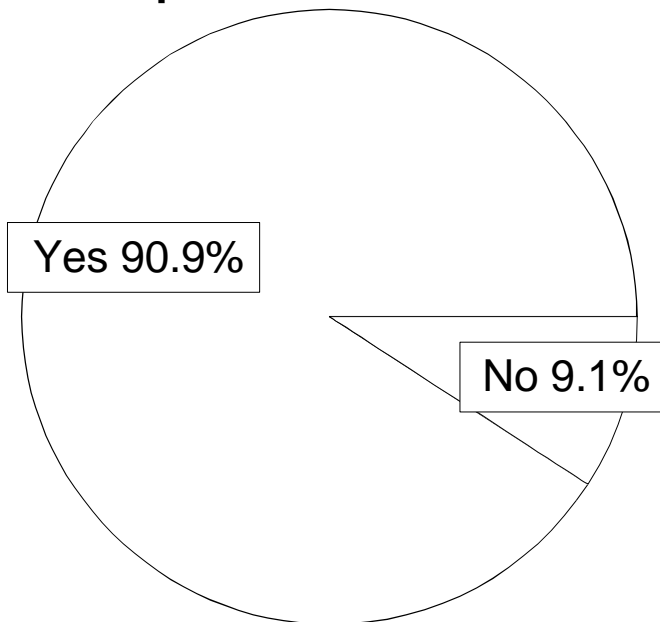
Graph 9  
**WORLDWIDE RESERVE REPLACEMENT 1998**

Are you replacing your overall production with new reserves?

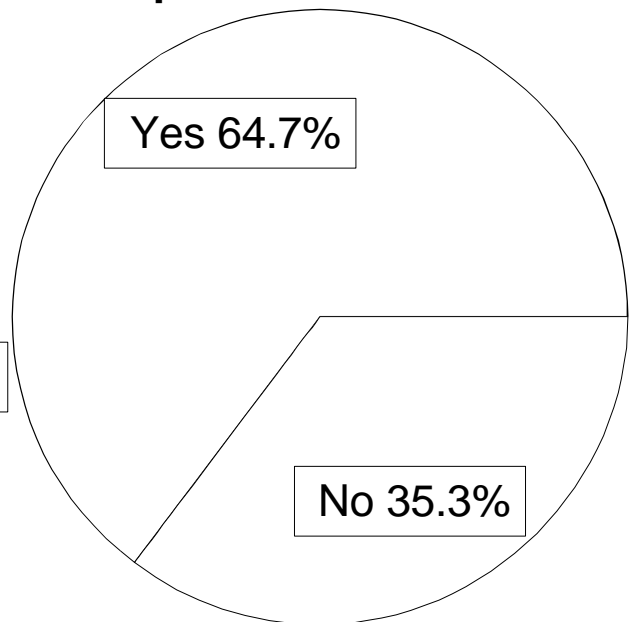
**All Respondents**



**Respondents  $\geq$  \$1 Million**



**Respondents  $<$  \$1 Million**

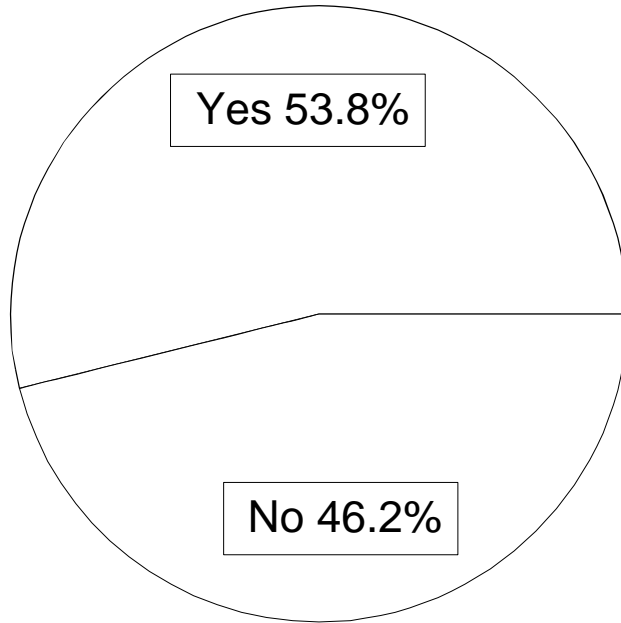


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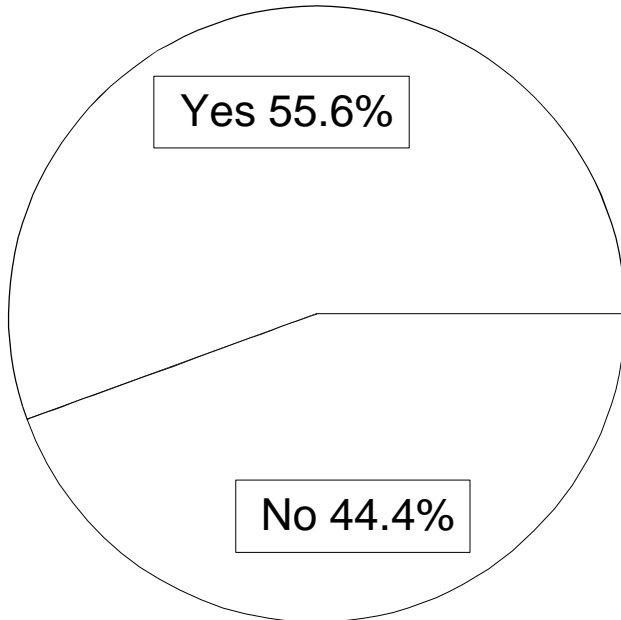
Graph 10  
**U.S. RESERVES REPLACEMENT 1998**

Are you replacing your U.S. production with new reserves?

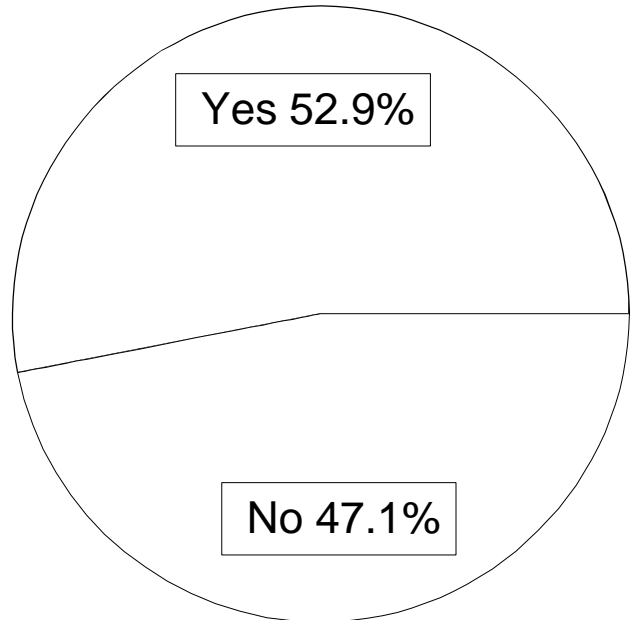
**All Respondents**



**Respondents  $\geq$  \$1 Million**



**Respondents  $<$  \$1 Million**

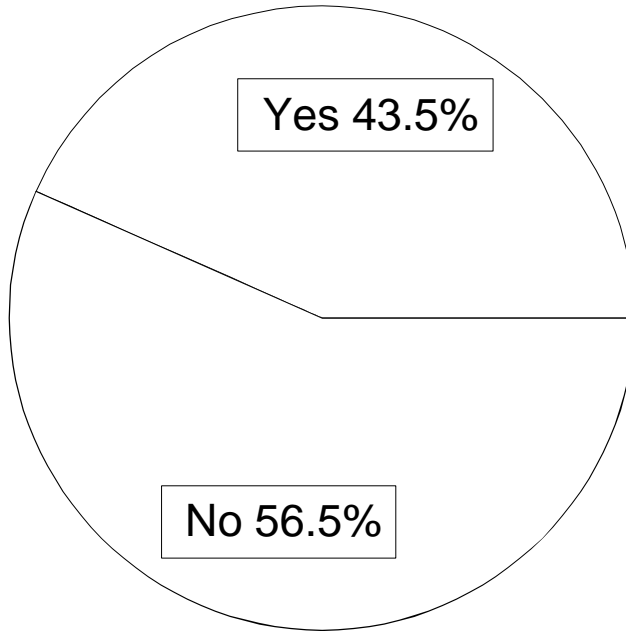


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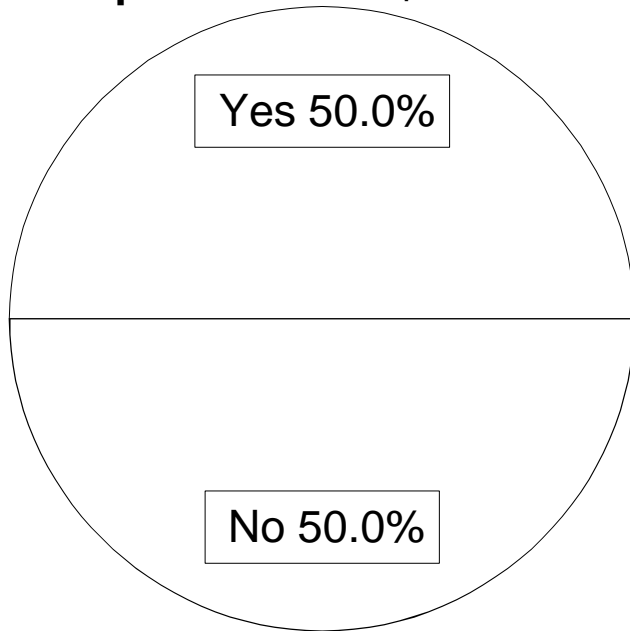
Graph 11  
**NEVADA RESERVE REPLACEMENT 1998**

Are you replacing your Nevada production with new reserves?

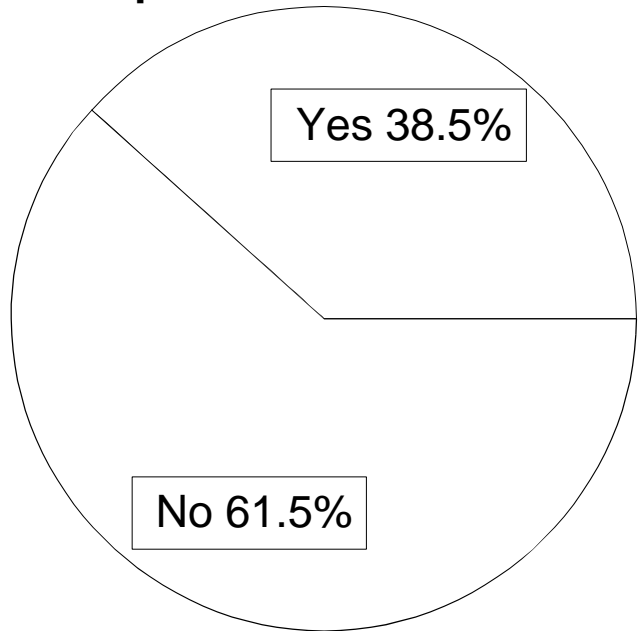
**All Respondents**



**Respondents  $\geq$  \$1 Million**



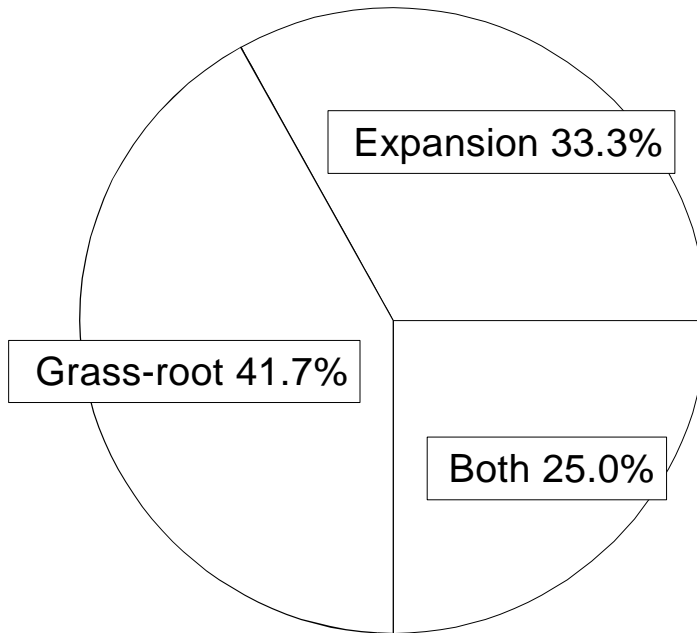
**Respondents  $<$  \$1 Million**



Graph 12  
**METHODS OF RESERVE REPLACEMENT 1998**

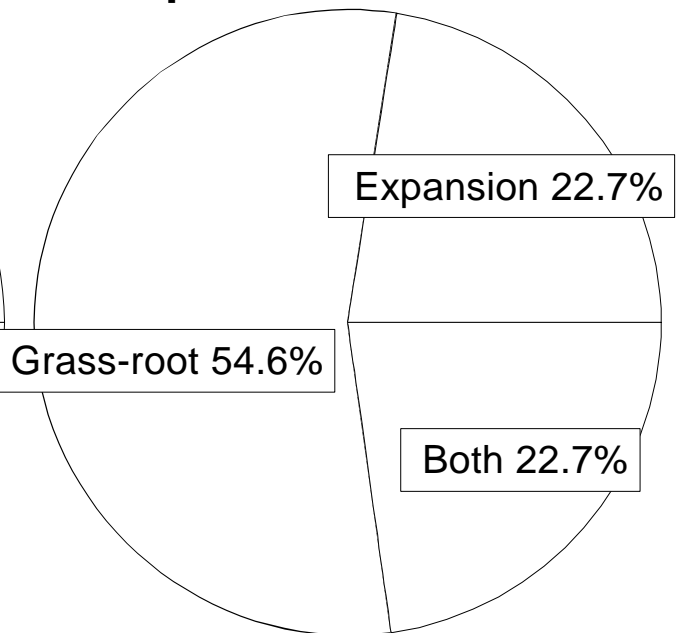
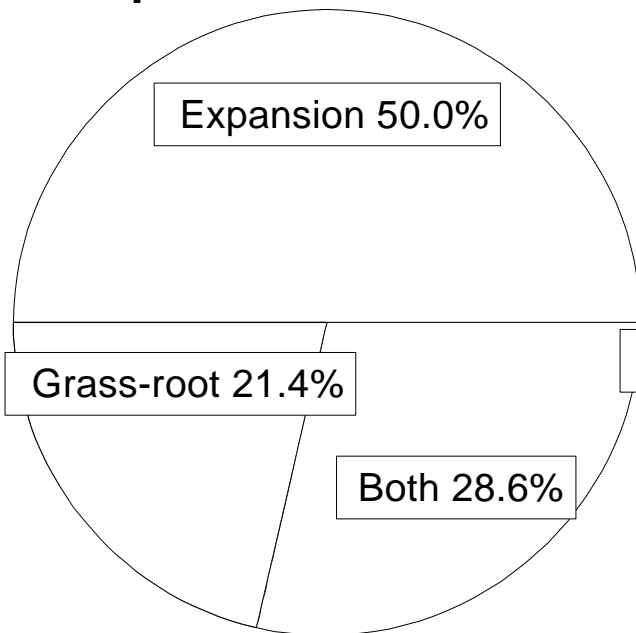
Do your discoveries represent expansions or grass-root discoveries?

**All Respondents**



**Respondents  $\geq$  \$1 Million**

**Respondents  $<$  \$1 Million**

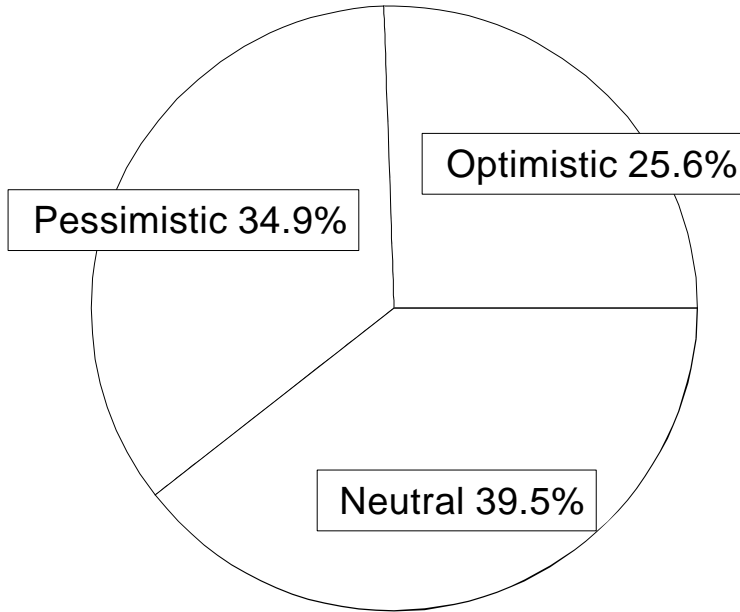


NDOMLV99

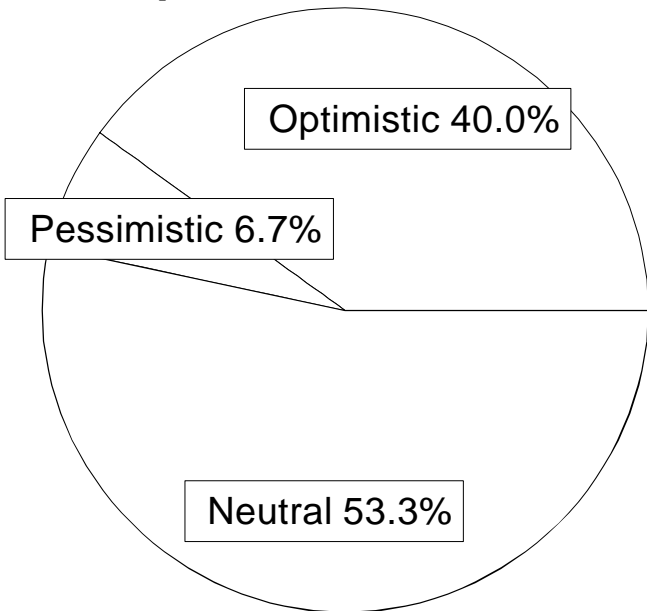
# Graph 13 ATTITUDES 1998

Do you feel generally optimistic, neutral, or pessimistic about domestic exploration?

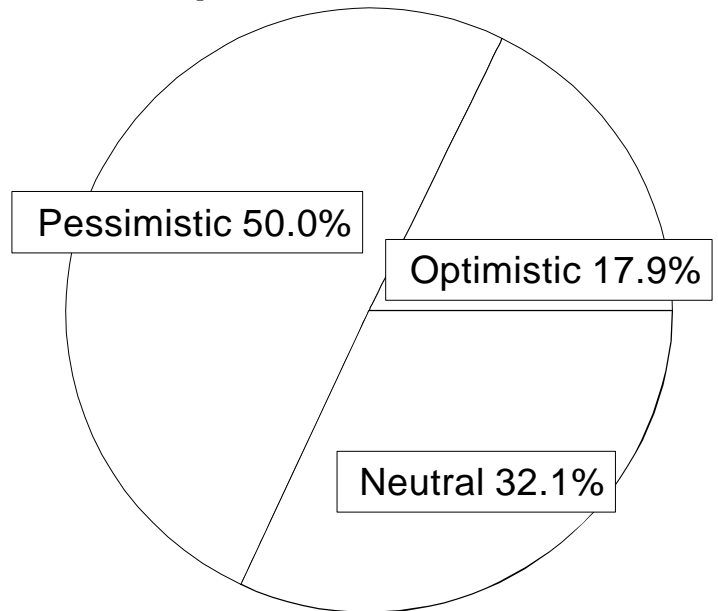
## All Respondents



## Respondents $\geq$ \$1 Million



## Respondents $<$ \$1 Million



NDOMLV99

**Nevada Division of Minerals  
Fifth Annual Exploration Survey**

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person/Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Level of Exploration Activity**

	<b>1998 Actual</b>	<b>1999 Planned</b>	<b>2000 Planned</b>
1. Total Worldwide expenditures	_____	_____	_____
2. Total U.S. expenditures	_____	_____	_____
3. Nevada expenditures	_____	_____	_____
4. Number of geologists worldwide	_____	_____	_____
5. Number of geologists in U.S.	_____	_____	_____
6. Number of geologists in Nevada	_____	_____	_____
7. Number of claims held in U.S.	_____	_____	_____
8. Number of claims held in Nevada	_____	_____	_____

**B. General questions (if not applicable, please indicate)**

1. Are you replacing your overall production with new reserves?
  
2. Are you replacing your U.S. production with new U.S. reserves?
  
3. Are you replacing your Nevada production with new Nevada reserves?
  
4. Do your discoveries represent expansions or grass-root discoveries?
  
5. Do you feel generally optimistic, neutral, or pessimistic about domestic exploration?
  
6. What activities would you like to see the Division of Minerals do to encourage exploration in Nevada?
  
  
7. How can the Division of Minerals better serve you?

**C. Level of exploration activity has been or will be influenced by:  
(please circle the appropriate number)**

	A Great Deal		Somewhat		Not Much
1. Commodity prices . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
2. Federal claim maintenance fees . . .	5	4	3	2	1
3. Permitting timeframes					
a. actual length of time . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
b. uncertainty over time . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
4. Uncertainty over mining law reform	5	4	3	2	1
5. Wilderness Study Areas . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
6. Existence of favorable geology . . .	5	4	3	2	1
7. Changes in foreign mining laws . . .	5	4	3	2	1
8. Announcements of new discoveries and expansions . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
9. Land exchanges/withdrawals . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
10. Corporate demands . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
11. Mergers . . . . .	5	4	3	2	1
12. Other _____	5	4	3	2	1

**All answers will be held confidential.**

**Please return this survey to the Nevada Division of Minerals, 400 W. King St., Suite 106, Carson City, NV 89703, or fax it to (775) 687-3957.**

**If you have any questions please call Doug Driesner at (775) 687-5050 or send an email to [driesner@govmail.state.nv.us](mailto:driesner@govmail.state.nv.us).**

**Thank you.**