

# Global Exploration Trends

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Preliminary estimates from Metals Economics Group's (MEG) Corporate Exploration Strategies study indicate that 2009 exploration budgets will reach roughly US\$8.4 billion for expenditures related to precious and base metals, diamonds, and uranium. After six consecutive years of increase, 2009 represents about a 40% decline from the 2008 exploration budget total of US\$14 billion - keeping in step with the effects of the global recession that began one year ago.

Not surprisingly, with such a substantial drop allocations for all commodities, at all stages and in all regions, are down. As expected, junior mining companies are accounting for the largest share of the overall decline - although most intermediate and major players have made deep cuts of their own in their 2009 exploration plans. Despite the juniors' contribution to the overall decline, the attrition rate within the junior ranks never reached the significant level predicted by some analysts earlier in the year.

This presentation will provide a broad overview of global exploration trends in the current cycle, including topics such as where dollars are being spent, what companies are searching for and where, and developments across various target stages.

## **About Metals Economics Group**

Metals Economics Group provides information and analysis on the global mining industry focused on addressing both strategic and tactical business needs. Clients benefit from a painstaking commitment to accuracy, many years of experience, excellent relationships with other industry experts, an unbiased approach to reporting and analyzing the latest trends and issues, and a responsive, personal approach to customer care. Through analysis, information services, and consulting, MEG continuously builds on its foundation as the primary source of intelligence on global minerals exploration, development, and production; strategic planning issues; and acquisitions activity.

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