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# **NEVADA EXPLORATION SURVEY 2010**

**by**

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**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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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the seventeenth annual survey conducted by the Division of Minerals of companies engaged in mineral exploration in Nevada. The purpose of the survey is to determine the level of current and projected exploration activity, and to determine what factors are influencing those levels of activity. The highlights of the survey are as follows:

- Seventeen companies responded to this survey.
- The respondents reported spending \$214.1 million on Nevada exploration activities in 2010, and project spending \$295.5 million in 2011. \$167.3 million was spent on expansions and \$46.8 million on grass-roots efforts.
- The respondents reported their worldwide exploration expenditures in 2010 were \$612.3 million, and project spending \$936.7 million in 2011.
- The respondents spent 74 percent of their budgets on actual exploration costs, 6 percent on land holding costs, 7 percent on corporate costs, 13 percent on permitting and compliance costs.
- The respondents reported employing 181 geologists in Nevada in 2001, up 27 from the 154 reported for 2009. Projections for 2011 show an increase to 191 geologists.
- The respondents reported holding 57,690 claims in Nevada and 78,500 in the U.S. as a whole in 2010.
- Existence of favorable geology remained the most important factor influencing the respondents' level of exploration activities, followed by availability of public land to explore.
- The time required for respondents to obtain approval of an exploration plan of operations varied from 3 months to 4 years, with an average of 19 months, compared to 25 months in 2009.
- All of the respondents who have Nevada production were able to replace their production with newly found reserves.
- Thirty-five percent of the respondents reported they were optimistic about domestic exploration, and thirty-five percent were neutral. Thirty percent reported being pessimistic.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2010, the Division of Minerals conducted its seventeenth annual survey of exploration companies engaged in projects or holding claims in Nevada. As in previous years, the purpose of this survey is to determine the current and projected levels of exploration activity, and to see what factors are influencing these levels. This survey is regarded as a portion of the official state mine registry, making the individual responses confidential.

Eighty five questionnaires were sent out. Responses were received from 17 companies. The Division appreciates the efforts of those who responded. Many, but not all, of the respondents to the survey are the same from one year to the next. This means that comparing trends from one year to the next is possible only in a general way rather than an exact way. Table 1 shows the number and types of respondents from previous surveys and this current one.

The main topics covered by the survey include exploration expenses and a breakdown of how those dollars were spent, geologists employed, number of claims held, a ranking of factors that influence respondents' levels of activity, success at reserve replacement, type of reserve replacement, and overall attitude toward domestic exploration.

The Division appreciates the efforts of Jonathan Price, State Geologist, for his review of the manuscript. Thanks are also due to Deborah Selig and George Bishop of the Division of Minerals.

## **EXPLORATION EXPENSES**

Exploration expenditures are regarded as one of the two main indicators of exploration activity, the other being the number of geologists employed. Exploration expenditures reported for Nevada for 2010 totaled \$214.1 million, up 93 percent from the \$110.9 million reported for 2009. The actual expenditures reported for 2010 were higher than the \$153.6 million which had been projected by the previous survey. In this current survey, respondents project their 2011 expenditures will be \$295.3 million. Expenditures reported for 2010 marked an increase after two consecutive years of decreases. Exploration spending is important to Nevada's economy, particularly in the rural areas.

Spending in the rest of the U.S. (non-Nevada) in 2010 was reported to be \$4.5 million, down from the \$7.5 reported for 2009. It should be pointed out there is a Nevada bias in this survey as companies without known Nevada activity are not polled. Spending in Nevada was 98 percent of the respondents' total U.S. spending in 2010, up from 94 in 2009. Nevada's percentage of domestic spending is projected to rise to 99 in 2011.

Respondents reported that their worldwide spending was \$612.3 million in 2010, up 43 percent from the \$427.7 million reported for 2009. Projections for 2011 show an increase to \$936.7 million. Spending in Nevada was 35 percent of the respondents' worldwide spending in 2010. Nevada's percentage of worldwide spending is projected to decrease to 32 in 2011.

In this survey, as in most previous ones, a distinction exists between the companies with Nevada exploration budgets greater than or equal to \$1 million (the GE companies) and those with Nevada exploration budgets less than \$1 million (the LT companies). Graph 1 shows the distribution of the respondents' budgets. Of the 17 respondents to this survey, 11 are GE companies and 6 are LT companies. The GE companies accounted for 99 percent of Nevada's exploration spending in 2010. The GE companies also account for the bulk of domestic and worldwide spending with 99 percent. Graph 2 shows the breakdown of exploration spending for Nevada, the rest of the U.S., and the rest of the world for 2010. Table 2 shows the exploration expenditures reported in previous years from 2004 to 2010.

The average Nevada spending per respondent was \$12.6 million in 2010, up from \$5.5 million in 2009. The GE companies spent an average of \$19.4 million, while the LT companies spent an average of \$100,000. Graph 3 illustrates the average spending per respondent in Nevada, the rest of the U.S., and the rest of the world.

## **BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES**

In addition to the amount of spending, respondents were asked to provide percentages of their budgets devoted to land holding costs (claim staking and holding, lease payments, etc.), permitting and compliance costs (bonding, reclamation, etc.), corporate costs (overhead, taxes, etc.), actual exploration costs (drilling, mapping, assaying, etc.), and other costs (respondents were asked to specify). The percentages given by each respondent were weighed by that respondent's budget.

For all respondents together, 74 percent of their budgets were spent on actual exploration, up from 70 percent in 2009. They spent 6 percent on land holding costs, down from 8 percent; 7 percent on corporate costs, down from 11 percent; and 13 percent on permitting and compliance costs, up from 11 percent.

For the GE companies as a group, 74 percent of their budgets were spent on actual exploration, up from 71 percent in 2009. They spent 6 percent on land holding costs, down from 7 percent; 7 percent on corporate costs, down from 11 percent; and 13 percent on permitting and compliance costs, up from 11 percent in 2009.

For the LT companies as a group, 53 percent of their budgets were spent on actual exploration, down from 56 percent in 2009. They spent 19 percent on land holding costs, up from 16 percent; 13 percent on corporate costs, down from 16 percent; and 15 percent on permitting and compliance costs, up from 12 percent in 2009.

The GE companies continue to spend a higher percentage of their budgets on actual exploration than the LT companies. The LT companies spend a higher percentage on land holding costs than the GE companies. Graph 4 shows the expense breakdowns of all respondents, GE respondents, and LT respondents.

## **GEOLOGISTS EMPLOYED**

The second main indicator of exploration activity is the number of geologists employed. In Nevada, respondents reported 181 geologists on the payroll in 2010, up from 154 in 2009. This is higher than the 160 geologists who were projected to be employed by the previous survey. Respondents to the current survey project 191 geologists will be working on Nevada projects in 2011. Of the 181 geologists at work in Nevada in 2010, 174 were employed by the GE companies and 7 by the LT companies. Graph 5 shows the number of geologists employed in 2010 and projected to be employed in 2011. Table 3 shows the geologists employed in previous surveys from 2004 to 2010.

In the U.S., including Nevada, 217 geologists were reported to be at work in 2010, up from 179 in 2009. Of those, 208 were employed by the GE companies and 9 were employed by the LT companies. Eighty-four percent of the domestic geologists employed by the GE companies in 2010 were working in Nevada, compared to 78 percent for the LT companies. Overall, 83 percent of domestic geologists were at work on Nevada projects. Projections for domestic employment in 2011 show an increase to 227 geologists, and Nevada's percentage is projected to rise to 84. Of the 227 geologists projected to be employed in 2011, the GE companies account for 220 and the LT companies 7. Eighty-five percent of the GE companies' geologists are projected to be at work in Nevada, compared to 71 percent for the LT companies.

Worldwide, including the U.S., respondents reported 843 geologists at work in 2010, up from 772 in 2009. Of those, 832 were working for the GE companies and 11 for the LT companies. Nevada's percentage of worldwide geological employment was 21 for all respondents, and 21 and 64 for the GE companies and LT companies, respectively. The respondents project an increase to 852 geologists employed in 2011, with 842 employed by the GE companies and 10 by the LT companies. Nevada's projected percentages of worldwide geological employment for 2011 are 22 for all respondents, 22 for the GE companies and 50 for the LT companies.

## **EXPENDITURES PER GEOLOGIST**

Reported expenditures were higher, and geologists employed were higher in 2010 than in 2009. For all respondents, the average spending per geologist in Nevada in 2010 was \$1.2 million, up from \$720,000 in 2009. In Nevada, the GE companies spent more per geologist (\$1.2 million) than the LT companies did (\$100,000). Projections for 2011 show the respondents spending an average of \$1.5 million per geologist.

In the U.S., including Nevada, the GE companies spent less and the LT companies spent more per geologist than in Nevada alone. In 2010 the GE companies spent \$1.0 million per domestic geologist and the LT companies spent \$200,000. Worldwide, the spending per geologist was lower for the GE companies but higher for the LT companies than in Nevada. The worldwide spending per geologist was \$730,000 for all respondents, \$730,000 for the GE companies, and \$330,000 for the LT companies.

## **MINING CLAIMS**

According to the BLM, Nevada State Office, there were 175,000 active claims in Nevada as of October 1, 2010, compared to 176,958 in 2009. Table 4 shows the mining claims held by respondents from 2004 to 2010. Graph 6 shows the mining claims held in Nevada according to BLM from 2000 to 2010, and the average gold prices for those years.

As depicted in Graph 7, respondents to this survey reported holding 57,690 claims in Nevada and 78,500 in the U.S. as a whole in 2010 compared to 61,773 and 81,984 respectively in 2009. Thus, respondents to this survey account for approximately 33 percent of the claims in Nevada. Ninety-nine percent of the claims in Nevada reported for this survey were held by the GE companies with 57,060 compared to 630 for the LT companies. In the U.S. as a whole, the GE companies held 77,790 claims and the LT companies held 710. Seventy-five percent of the claims held by respondents are in Nevada.

Projections for 2011 show an increase in the number of claims held by respondents. The total number of claims held by all respondents is projected to be 58,423 in Nevada and 79,958 in the U.S. as a whole. The GE companies project their Nevada claim holdings will rise in 2011 to 55,793 and the LT companies project their claim holdings will remain at 630. In the U.S. as a whole, the GE companies project they will hold 79,248 claims, and the LT companies project they will hold 710. In 2011, 73 percent of the claims held by respondents are projected to be in Nevada.

In February 2010, the Nevada Legislature passed legislation imposing an additional fee on mining claim filings. This fee ranged from \$0 per claim for those holding less than 11 claims to \$195 per claim for those holding 1,300 or more claims. The law was rescinded; however, it was a factor in 2010.

## **FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY**

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

1. Existence of favorable geology
2. Availability of public lands to explore
3. Actual length of permitting time
4. Uncertainty over permitting time frames
5. State claim fees
6. Commodity prices
7. Uncertainty over mining law reform
8. Federal claim maintenance fees
9. Announcements of new discoveries
10. Changes in foreign mining laws

The ranking of factors is similar to previous years, but not identical. For all respondents, the existence of favorable geology remained the most important factor. Availability of public lands to explore was the second most important factor followed by the actual length of permitting time. The gold price improved from an average of \$972 per troy ounce in 2009 to \$1,225 per troy ounce in 2010; however, state claim fees were a more important factor than commodity prices. Changes in foreign mining laws were the least important factor.

The GE companies ranked existence of favorable geology as the most important factor followed by availability of public land to explore. The LT companies ranked the actual length of permitting time as most important, followed by existence of favorable geology. Graphs 8, 9, and 10 show the relative importance of the factors for all respondents, the GE companies, and the LT companies, respectively.

Due to the relative importance of permitting times, this survey asked how long it took to get a notice of intent through the permitting process, and how long it took to get a plan of operations approved. For a notice, the time ranged from 4 weeks to 6 months, with an average of 7 weeks, a decrease from 9 weeks in 2009. For a plan, the time ranged from 4 months to 4 years, with an average of 18 months, a decrease from 25 months in 2009. Three respondents wrote in that the time frames differed depending on whether the BLM or U.S. Forest Service was the regulator. When the BLM was the regulator, the time frame was shorter.

## **REPLACEMENT OF RESERVES**

Respondents were asked whether or not they were able to replace their reserves lost to production with newly found reserves. In this question a “yes” answer indicates a total replacement of reserves and a “no” answer indicates that reserves were not totally replaced. The response from the smallest company carries the same weight as the largest company, thus the results signify the number of companies replacing their reserves, and not the amount of reserves being replaced. Table 5 shows the percentages of respondents who replaced their reserves. Companies with no production were not figured into the results.

On a worldwide basis, 4 of 5 companies with production (80 percent) replaced their reserves. Twelve companies had no worldwide production. Five of 6 companies (83 percent) with production in Nevada and other states replaced their reserves. Five of 6 companies (83 percent) with production in Nevada replaced their reserves.

The method of reserve replacement included expansions around existing operations and grass-roots efforts. Previously sub-economic resources may be added to reserves as commodity prices increase, or reserves may be purchased or acquired through mergers, but those methods were not considered in this survey. Overall, 78 percent of the respondents’ budgets were spent on expansions and 22 percent on grass-roots efforts. The GE companies focused more on expansions with 78 percent of their budgets spent on expansions and 22 percent on grass-roots efforts. The LT companies spent over 94 percent of their budgets on grass-roots efforts and 6 percent on expansions.

## **ATTITUDES**

Respondents were asked whether they were optimistic, neutral, or pessimistic about domestic exploration. Overall, 35 percent of the respondents reported being optimistic, 35 percent were neutral, and 30 percent were pessimistic. The GE companies were 45 percent optimistic, 36 percent neutral, and 29 percent pessimistic. The LT companies were 16 percent optimistic, 33 percent neutral, and 51 percent pessimistic.

Graph 11 shows the calculated “optimism indices” for all respondents, GE companies, and LT companies for the past 11 years. The optimism index is a number calculated by scoring 100 points for each optimist, negative 100 points for each pessimist, and 0 points for each of the neutral respondents. The sum of the scores divided by the number of respondents is the optimism index. The optimism index for 2010 is down overall compared to 2009. The GE companies were more optimistic in 2010 than 2009, whereas the LT companies were more pessimistic.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The 17 respondents to this survey reported spending \$214.1 million on Nevada exploration projects in 2010, a 93 percent increase from the reported 2009 level. Expenditures are projected to rise to \$295.3 million in 2011. The number of geologists employed in Nevada by respondents in 2010 stood at 181, up from 154 in 2009. Employment of geologists is projected to increase to 191 in 2011. Respondents spent 74 percent of their budgets on actual exploration costs, such as drilling, mapping, and assaying. Existence of favorable geology and availability of public land to explore were the most important factors influencing respondents’ level of activity. Eighty three percent of the respondents who have Nevada production were able to replace their reserves lost to production. Finally, 35 percent of the respondents reported they were optimistic about domestic exploration.

**TABLE 1**  
**Number and Types of Respondents**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Companies with Nevada budget <math>\geq</math> \$1 million</b>	<b>Companies with Nevada budget <math>&lt;</math> \$1 million</b>	<b>Total respondents</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>

- Data for 1995 through 2003 are available in previous surveys, which may be found on the Division of Minerals' web site: [minerals.state.nv.us](http://minerals.state.nv.us)

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

<b>All Respondents</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	79.7	121.3	164.9	167.9	158.1	110.9	214.1
Rest of U.S.	9.5	16.7	35.6	30.7	39.5	7.5	4.5
Outside U.S.	348.7	418.5	414.7	558.1	496.7	309.3	393.7
Total World	437.9	556.5	615.2	756.7	694.3	427.7	612.3

<b>Companies with Nevada budget &gt; = \$1 million</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	77.7	114.8	163.7	164.8	154.7	108.0	213.4
Rest of U.S.	6.6	11.4	35.5	30.3	38.3	6.6	3.4
Outside U.S.	334.2	400.2	409.3	554.2	460.1	309.0	392.0
Total World	418.5	526.4	608.5	749.3	653.1	423.6	608.8

<b>Companies with Nevada budget &lt; \$1 million</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	2.0	6.5	1.3	3.1	3.4	2.9	0.7
Rest of U.S.	2.9	5.3	0.0	0.4	1.2	0.9	1.1
Outside U.S.	14.5	18.3	5.4	3.9	36.6	0.3	1.8
Total World	19.4	30.1	6.7	7.4	41.2	4.1	3.6

\* Data for 1994 through 2003 are available in previous surveys, which may be found on the Division of Minerals' web site: [minerals.state.nv.us](http://minerals.state.nv.us)

**TABLE 3  
Geologists Employed by Respondents**

<b>All Respondents</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	123	190	228	227	184	154	181
Rest of U.S.	42	10	57	31	32	25	36
Outside U.S.	627	646	678	680	556	612	624
Total World	792	846	963	938	772	791	843

<b>Respondents with Nevada budget &gt; = \$1 million</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	109	158	218	209	172	133	174
Rest of U.S.	29	5	55	28	31	23	34
Outside U.S.	560	598	668	669	545	610	624
Total World	698	761	941	906	748	766	832

<b>Respondents with Nevada budget &lt; \$1 million</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	14	32	10	18	12	21	7
Rest of U.S.	13	5	2	3	1	2	2
Outside U.S.	67	48	10	11	11	2	2
Total World	94	85	22	32	24	25	11

\* Data for 1994 through 2003 are available in previous surveys, which may be found on the Division of Minerals' web site: [minerals.state.nv.us](http://minerals.state.nv.us)

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

<b>All Respondents</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	56,673	76,436	75,350	81,292	72,022	61,773	57,690
Rest of U.S.	6,918	4,601	8,447	6,420	22,730	20,211	20,810
<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>63,591</b>	<b>81,037</b>	<b>83,797</b>	<b>87,712</b>	<b>94,752</b>	<b>81,984</b>	<b>78,500</b>

<b>Respondents with Nevada budget &gt; = \$1 million</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	53,460	62,254	74,107	75,996	66,877	56,501	57,060
Rest of U.S.	4,190	2,804	8,437	6,290	22,211	19,671	20,730
<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>57,650</b>	<b>65,058</b>	<b>82,544</b>	<b>82,286</b>	<b>89,088</b>	<b>76,172</b>	<b>77,790</b>

<b>Respondents with Nevada budget &lt; \$1 million</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Nevada	3,213	14,182	1,243	5,296	5,148	5,272	630
Rest of U.S.	2,728	1,797	10	130	519	540	80
<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>5,426</b>	<b>5,664</b>	<b>5,812</b>	<b>710</b>

\* Data for 1994 through 2003 are available in previous surveys, which may be found on the Division of Minerals' web site: [minerals.state.nv.us](http://minerals.state.nv.us)

**TABLE 5**

**Success at Reserve Replacement by Respondents**

Numbers refer to the percentage of respondents who answered “yes.”

**For all respondents with production:**

<b>Are you replacing your reserves</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Worldwide?	89	73	82	56	43	100	80
Domestically?	86	57	86	57	33	100	83
In Nevada?	71	71	86	89	50	100	83

**For producing respondents with Nevada exploration budget > = \$1 million:**

<b>Are you replacing your reserves</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Worldwide?	100	87	80	71	60	100	75
Domestically?	100	75	83	67	33	100	83
In Nevada?	100	75	86	83	50	100	83

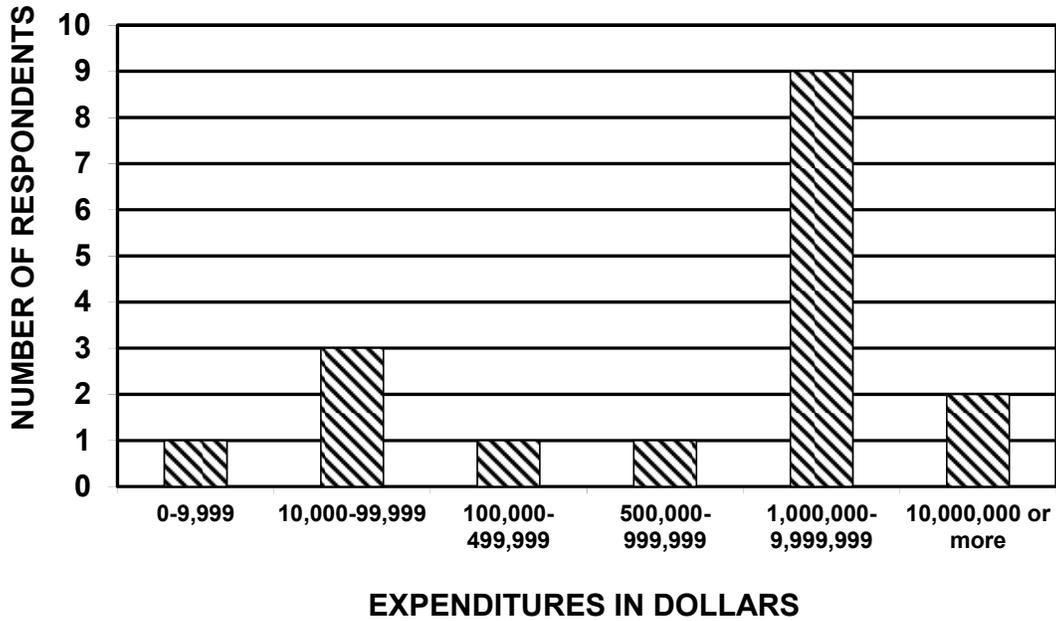
**For producing respondents with Nevada exploration budget < \$1 million:**

<b>Are you replacing your reserves</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Worldwide?	67	33	100	0	0	N/A	100
Domestically?	67	33	100	0	33	100	100
In Nevada?	33	67	N/A	100	100	100	100

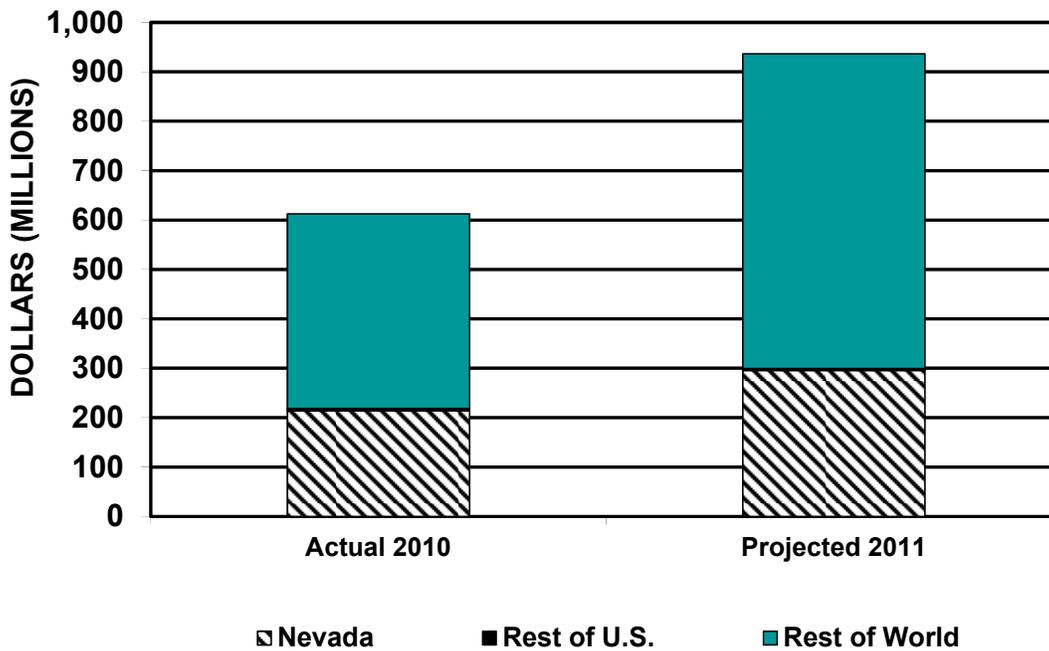
\* Data for 1994 through 2003 are available in previous surveys, which may be found on the Division of Minerals’ web site: [minerals.state.nv.us](http://minerals.state.nv.us)

NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
 GRAPH 1

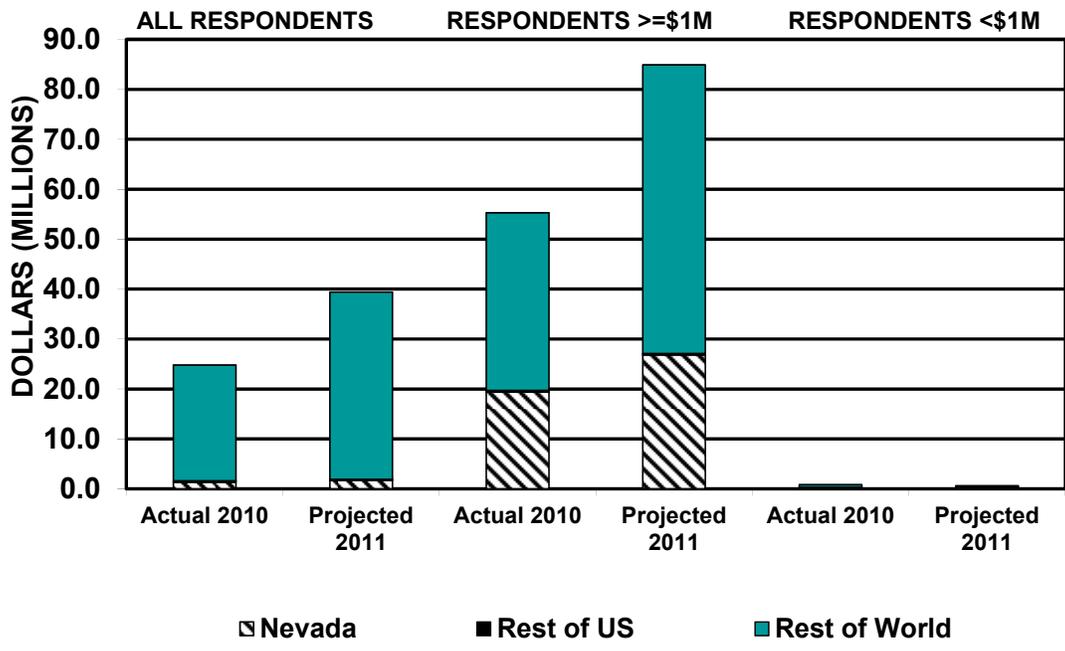
RESPONDENTS' NEVADA EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES 2010



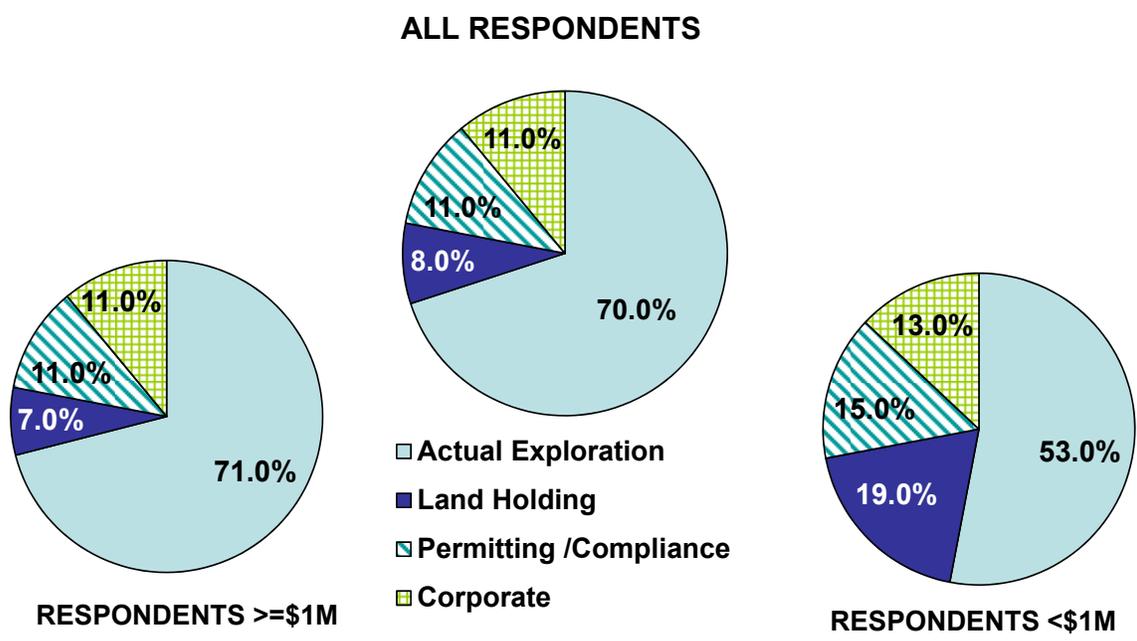
NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
 GRAPH 2  
 TOTAL EXPLORATION SPENDING 2010/2011



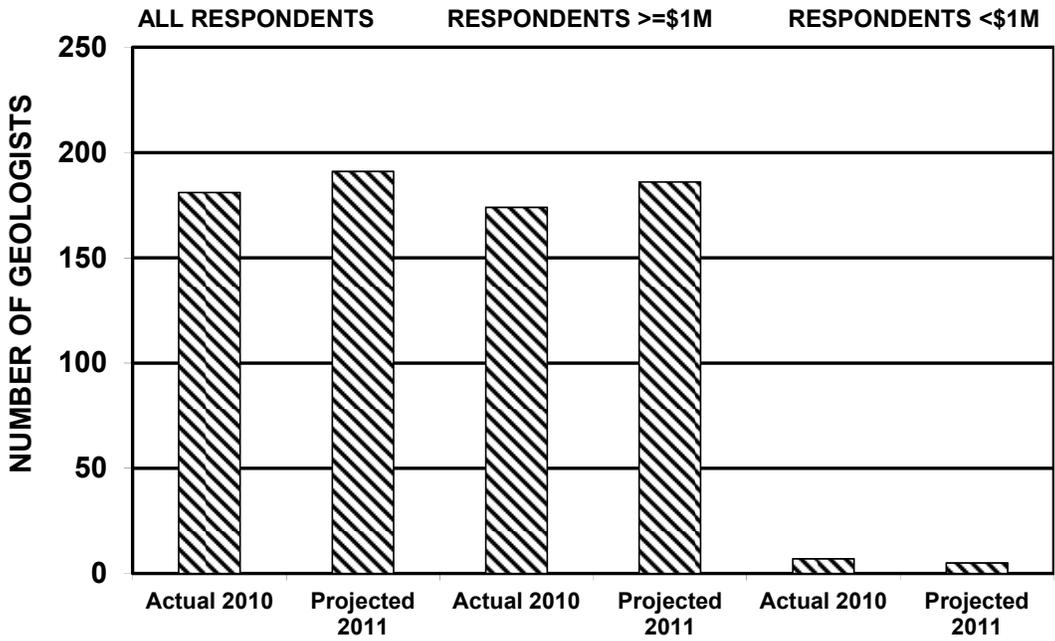
NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
 GRAPH 3  
 AVERAGE SPENDING PER RESPONDENT 2010/2011



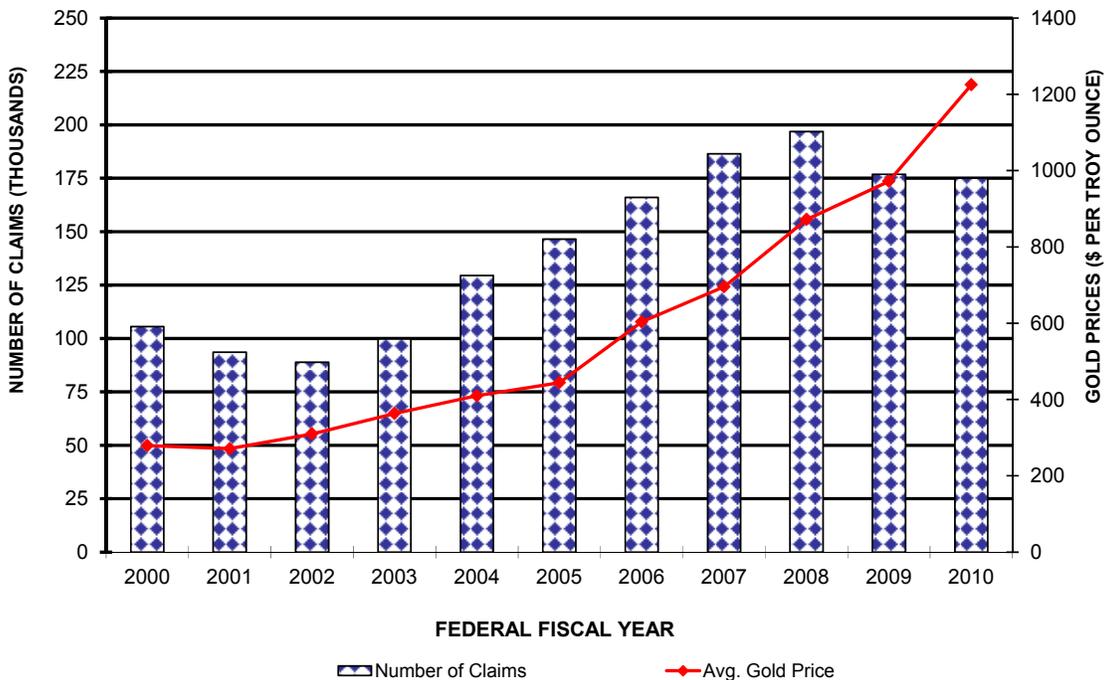
NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
 GRAPH 4  
 BREAKDOWN OF NEVADA EXPENSES 2010



**NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
GRAPH 5  
EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS EMPLOYED IN NEVADA 2010/2011**

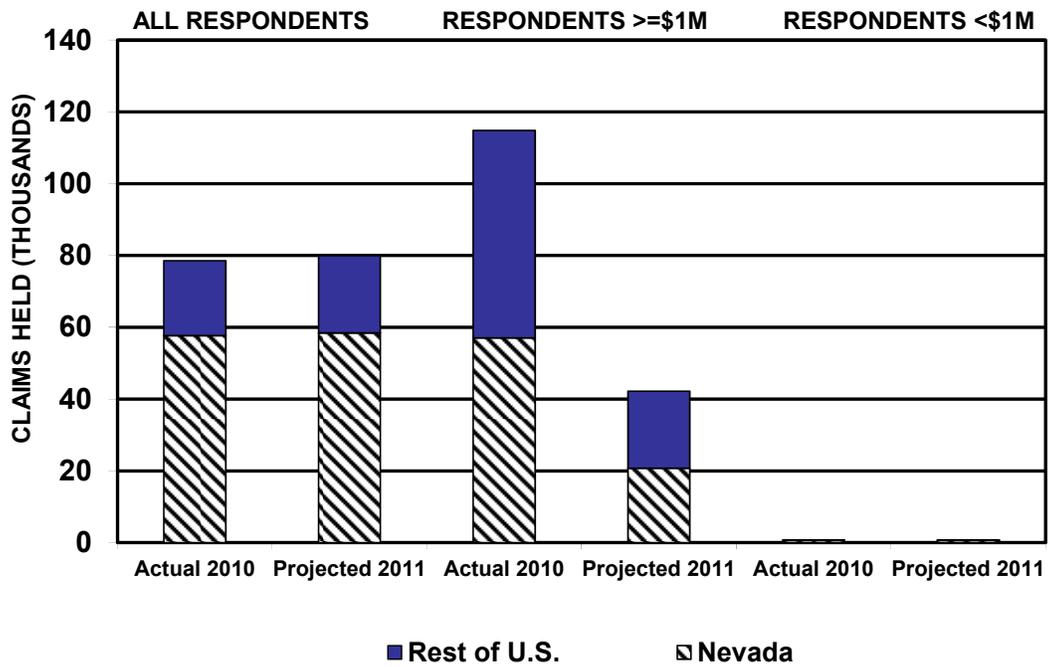


**NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
GRAPH 6  
NEVADA MINING CLAIMS & AVERAGE GOLD PRICES, 2000-2010**

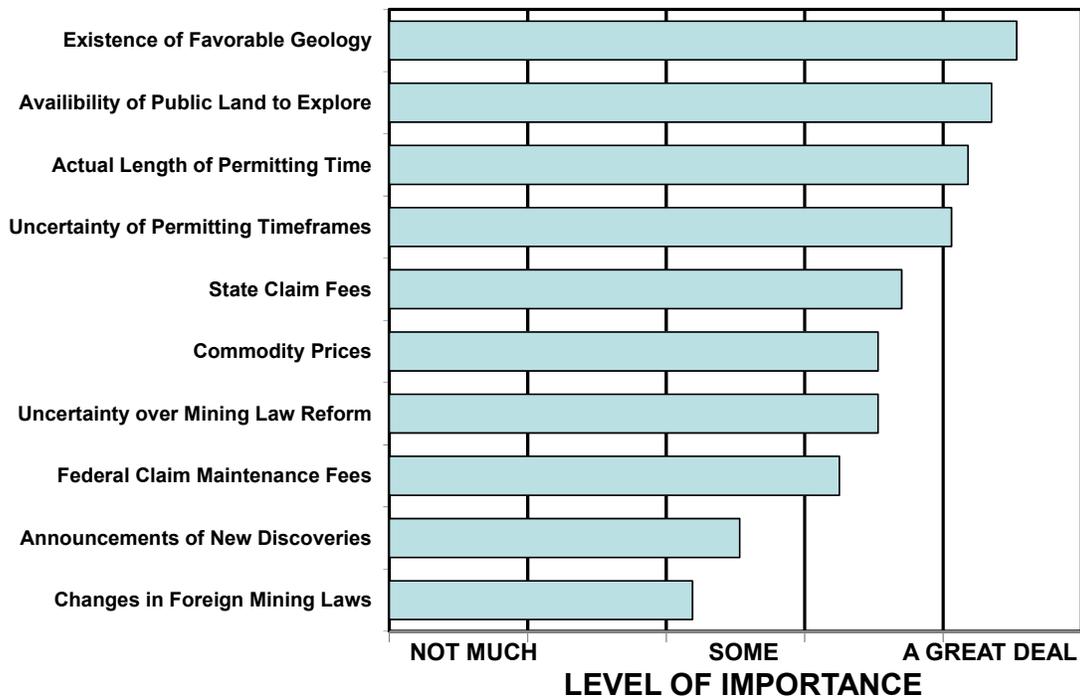


**NOTE: Claim data from the BLM Public Land Statistics**

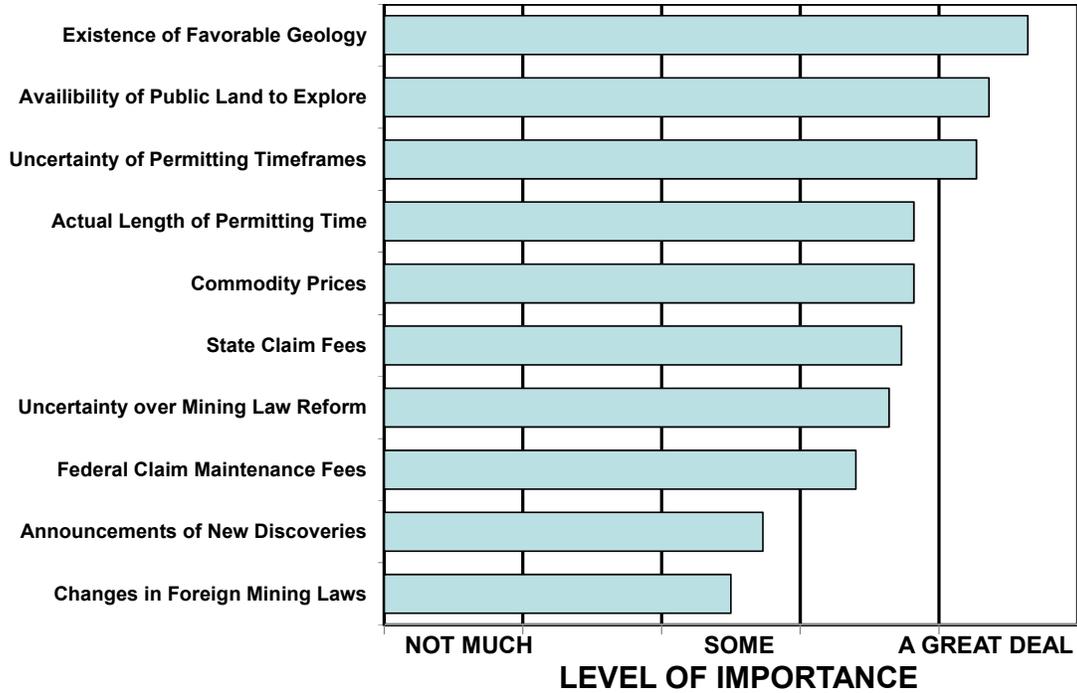
**NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
GRAPH 7  
NUMBER OF CLAIMS HELD BY RESPONDENTS 2010/2011**



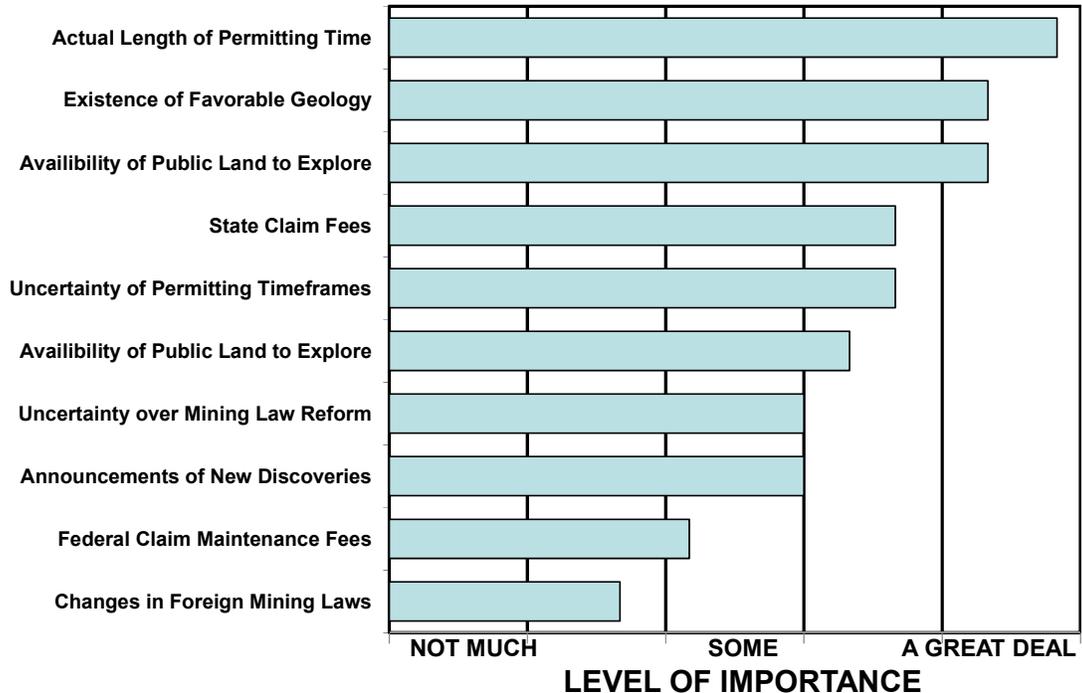
**NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
GRAPH 8  
FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY 2010  
ALL RESPONDENTS**



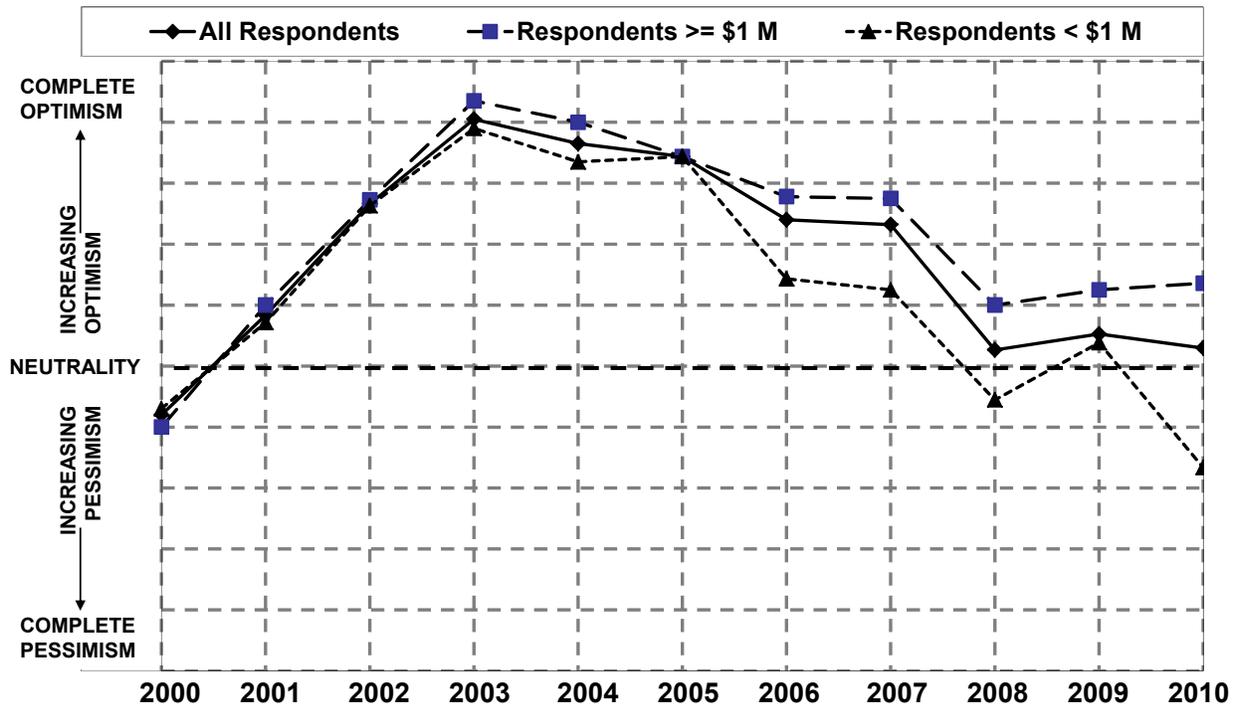
**NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
GRAPH 9  
FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY 2010  
RESPONDENTS >=\$1 MILLION**



**NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
GRAPH 10  
FACTORS INFLUENCING ACTIVITY 2010  
RESPONDENTS <\$1 MILLION**



NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS  
 GRAPH 11  
 OPTIMISM INDEX 2000-2010



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

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

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

1) <b>Level of Exploration Activity</b>	2010 Actual	2011 Planned
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	_____	_____

2) **Please estimate your Nevada exploration expenditures into components by percentage. Include salaries and benefits within their appropriate component. If you do not know exact percentages, please provide your best approximation.**

1. Land holding costs (claim staking/holding, lease payments, etc.)	_____ %
2. Permitting and compliance costs (bonding, reclamation, etc.)	_____ %
3. Corporate costs (overhead, taxes, etc.)	_____ %
4. Actual exploration (mapping, drilling, interpreting, etc.)	_____ %
5. Other (please specify _____)	_____ %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

3) **Please estimate the percentage of your Nevada exploration expenditures dedicated to expansions around existing operations and to grass-roots efforts.**

Expansions \_\_\_\_\_%      Grass-roots efforts \_\_\_\_\_%

(Total should equal 100 %)

