

# Victorian beef industry

Fast Facts  
January 2023

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

**5,300**

↑ 15%

Beef specialist farms  
(2020-21)

**10,650**

↑ 1.9%

Jobs in beef industry  
(2020-21)

**\$2.6B**

↓ 11%

Value of beef production  
(2020-21)

**\$1.7B**

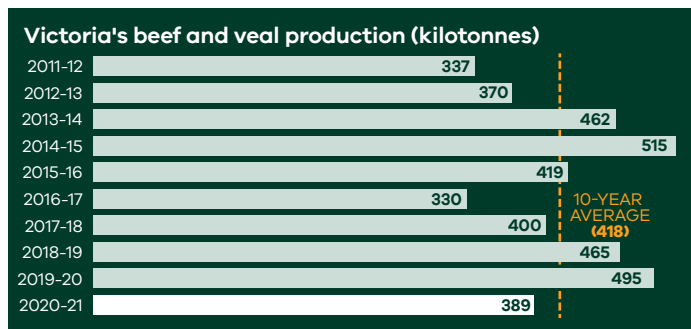
↑ 24%

Beef and veal exports  
(2021-22)

## Herd facts and figures

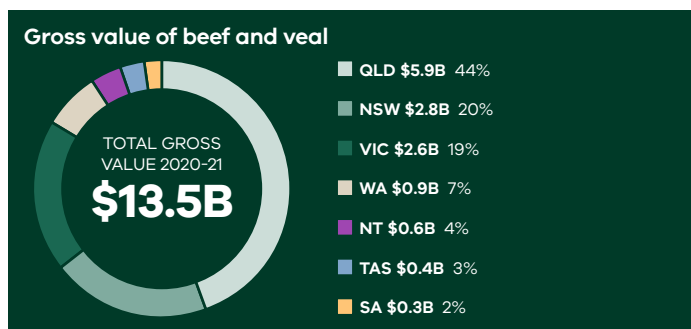
- Victoria's beef production is predominantly located in the South West, Gippsland, Hume and North West regions.
- There were 5,300<sup>#</sup> beef specialist farm businesses in Victoria in 2020-21, representing 25 per cent of the national beef specialist farm businesses. There were a further 1,750<sup>#</sup> mixed-livestock and 680<sup>#</sup> sheep-beef farms in Victoria.
- Victoria's herd size was 2.1 million beef cattle accounting for about 10 per cent of Australia's beef herd of 22 million.
- Victoria has the third largest population of beef cattle after Queensland (10.6 million) and New South Wales (NSW) (4.2 million).

## How much beef and veal is produced?



- In 2020-21, Victoria processed 1.5 million cattle and calves, producing 390,000 tonnes of beef and veal, down 106,000 tonnes (21%) compared to 2019-20 (495,000 tonnes).
- Victoria accounted for 20 per cent of Australia's beef production (1,931,435 tonnes).
- Victoria is the third largest beef producer after Queensland (923,000 tonnes) and NSW (402,000 tonnes).

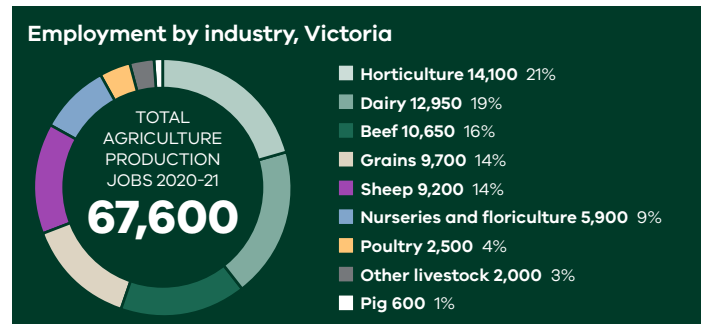
## What is the value of production?



- In 2020-21, the gross value of Victorian cattle and calves meat production was \$2.6 billion.

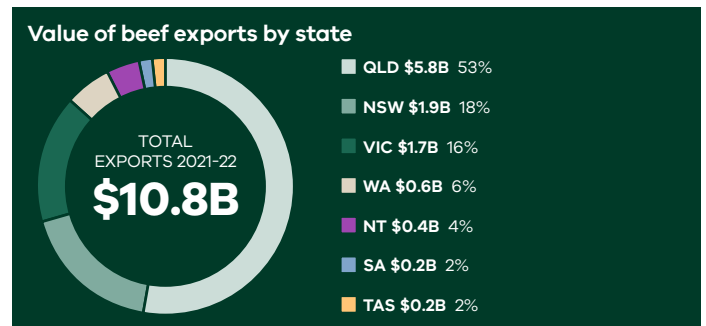
- Cattle for beef contributed 15 per cent to Victoria's gross value of agricultural production of \$17.5 billion.
- Beef industry is Victoria's fourth largest agricultural industry after grains (\$3.6 billion), horticulture (\$3.2 billion) and dairy (\$2.9 billion).
- Victoria contributed 19 per cent to Australia's gross value of cattle and calves production of around \$13.5 billion.

## Industry employment



- It is estimated that 10,650 people were employed in the Victorian beef industry in 2020-21, representing a 1.9 per cent increase on 2019-20 job numbers.
- The beef industry contributed 16 per cent to Victorian agricultural jobs in 2020-21.

## How much is exported?



- In 2021-22, the value of Victoria's beef exports was \$1.7 billion, representing 39 per cent of all meat exports.
- Beef exports contributed 12 per cent to Victoria's total food exports (\$14.4 billion).
- Victoria was the third highest beef exporter after Queensland (\$5.8 billion) and NSW (\$1.9 billion), accounting for 16 per cent of Australia's beef exports.
- The United States was Victoria's highest-value market for beef exports, valued at \$474 million in 2021-22, followed by Japan (\$288 million) and China (\$276 million).