

# Victorian dairy industry

Fast Facts  
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AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

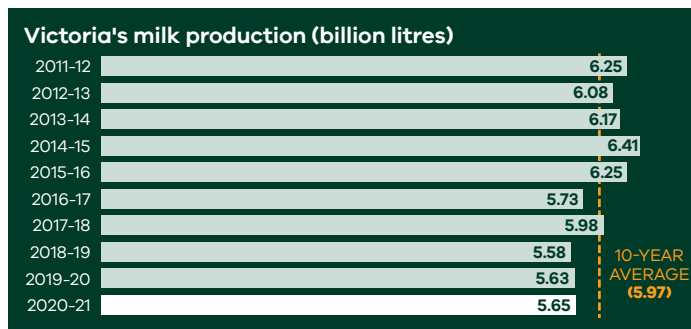


## Dairy herd facts and figures

- There were around 3,100 dairy farm businesses in Victoria in 2020-21, accounting for 67 per cent of the 4,600 dairy farms in Australia.
- Victorian dairy farms are concentrated in Gippsland (35%), South-West Victoria (33%), and Northern Victoria (32%).
- There was a total of 1.5 million dairy cattle (including cows in milk and dry, heifers and calves less than one-year-old) in Victoria in 2020-21. Victoria's herd size represents 61 per cent of the national dairy herd of 2.4 million head.

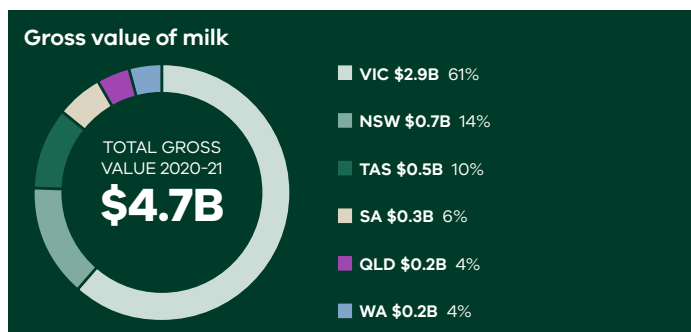
- Milk accounted for 16 per cent of Victoria's gross agricultural production value of 17.5 billion.
- The dairy industry is Victoria's third largest agricultural industry after grains (\$3.6 billion) and horticulture (\$3.2 billion).
- Victoria contributed 61 per cent to Australia's gross value of milk production, estimated at \$4.7 billion, cementing Victoria's position as the nation's largest milk producer.

## How much dairy is produced?



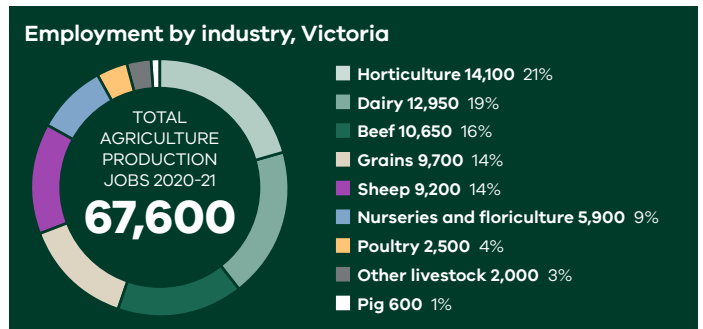
- Victoria is Australia's largest dairy-producing state, producing 5.65 billion litres of milk in 2020-21—close to two-thirds of Australia's milk production.
- Northern Victoria, South West Victoria and Gippsland dairying regions account for approximately 19 per cent, 22 per cent and 23 per cent of Australia's milk production, respectively.
- On average, manufactured exports account for 29 per cent of milk produced in Victoria, while the remaining milk is used for domestic manufacturing (60%) and drinking milk sales (11%).

## What is the value of milk produced?



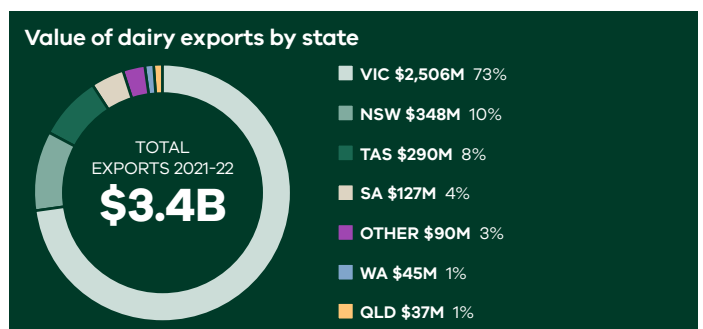
- In 2020-21, the gross value of the 5.65 billion litres of milk produced in Victoria was \$2.86 billion, a decrease of \$147 million (down 5 per cent) on the previous year.

## Industry employment



- It is estimated that approximately 13,000 persons worked on farms producing milk in 2020-21, representing a 3.3 per cent decrease from 2019-20 job numbers.
- The dairy industry contributes 19 per cent to Victorian agricultural jobs.

## How much is exported?



- Victoria's total dairy exports were valued at \$2.51 billion in 2021-22, representing 17 per cent of Victoria's total food exports (\$14.4 billion).
- Milk and cream products were the highest value dairy category, contributing 52 per cent of Victoria's dairy exports. Cheese and whey products were the second highest value category at \$872 million (35 per cent of dairy exports).
- Victoria is the largest dairy exporter accounting for 73 per cent of Australia's total dairy exports (\$3.4 billion).
- China remained the major destination for Victorian dairy exports in 2021-22, at \$794 million, followed by Japan (\$333 million), Indonesia (\$204 million), Malaysia (\$185 million) and Singapore (\$165 million).