

Victorian sheep industry

Fast Facts
January 2023



3,000

↓ 18%

Sheep specialist farms
(2020-21)

9,200

↑ 1.5%

Jobs in sheep industry
(2020-21)

\$1.9B

↓ 14%

Gross value of sheep meat
(2020-21)

\$1.9B

↑ 35%

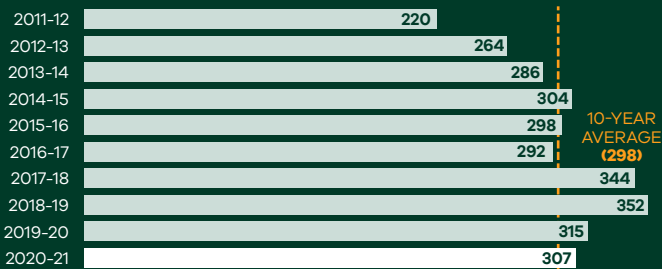
Sheep meat exports
(2021-22)

Sheep flock facts and figures

- There were 3,000[#] sheep specialist farm businesses in Victoria in 2020-21, representing 29 per cent of Australia's 10,100 sheep specialist farms. There were a further 1,750[#] mixed-livestock and 680[#] sheep-beef farms in Victoria.
- Victoria's flock size was 15.4 million sheep accounting for about 23 per cent of Australia's sheep flock totalling 68 million.
- Victoria has the second-largest population of sheep after New South Wales (NSW) (25 million).

How much sheep meat is produced?

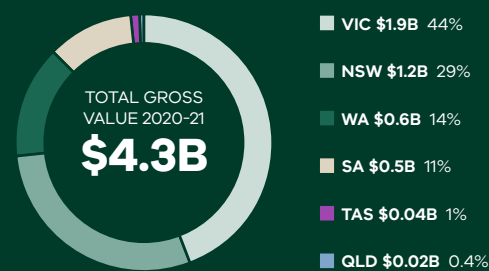
Victoria's sheep meat production (kilotonnes)



- In 2020-21, Victoria processed 12.4 million sheep to produce 307,000 tonnes of sheep meat. Sheep meat production was 2.5 per cent less than in 2019-20 (315,000 tonnes).
- Victoria accounted for 47 per cent of Australia's sheep meat production (660,000 tonnes).
- Victoria is Australia's largest sheep meat producer, followed by NSW (183,000 tonnes) and Western Australia (86,000 tonnes).

What is the value of production?

Gross value of sheep meat

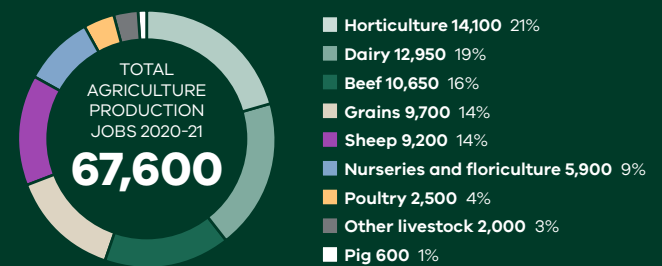


- In 2020-21, the gross value of Victorian sheep meat production was \$1.9 billion, accounting for 11 per cent to Victoria's gross value of agricultural production of \$17.5 billion.
- The sheep meat industry is Victoria's fifth largest agricultural industry after grains (\$3.6 billion), horticulture (\$3.2 billion), dairy (\$2.9 billion), and beef (\$2.6 billion).

- Victoria contributed 44 per cent to Australia's gross value of sheep meat production of around \$4.3 billion.

Industry employment

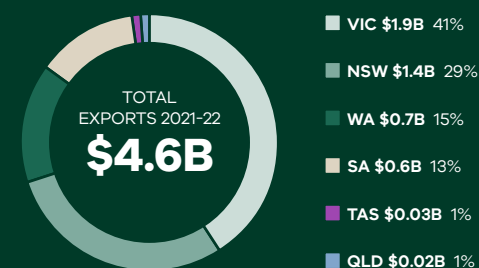
Employment by industry, Victoria



- We estimate that approximately 9,200 persons worked on farms that produced sheep meat/wool in 2020-21, representing a 1.5 per cent increase on 2019-20 job numbers.
- The sheep industry contributes 14 per cent to Victorian agricultural jobs.

How much is exported?

Value of sheep meat exports by state



- In 2021-22, the value of Victoria's sheep meat exports was \$1.9 billion, representing 43 per cent of all meat exports.
- Victoria exported 208,000 tonnes of sheep meat, comprising 133,000 tonnes of lamb and 75,000 tonnes of mutton.
- Sheep meat exports contributed 13 per cent to Victoria's total food exports (\$14.4 billion).
- By value, Victoria is Australia's highest sheep meat exporter (followed by NSW (\$1.4 billion)), accounting for 41 per cent of Australia's sheep meat exports.
- The United States is Victoria's highest-value market for sheep meat exports (valued at \$598 million in 2020-21), followed by China (\$206 million) and Malaysia (\$165 million).

Data attribution: Sourced from publicly available data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) | *ABARES | Agriculture Policy and Programs Branch analysis. Data are the latest available as of December 2022.