

Victorian wool industry

Fast Facts
January 2023

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

3,000

↓ 18%

Sheep specialist farms
(2020-21)

9,200

↑ 1.5%

Jobs in sheep industry
(2020-21)

\$717M

↓ 7%

Gross value of wool
(2020-21)

\$1.7B

↑ 27%

Wool exports
(2021-22)

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 wool is produced?

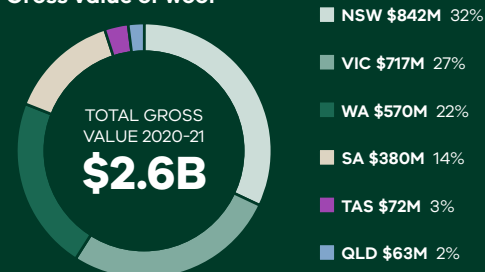
Victoria's wool production (kilotonnes)



- Victoria produced 92,000 tonnes of wool in 2020-21. This production was 43 per cent less than in 2019-20 (162,000 tonnes).
- Victorian wool production represents 28 per cent of Australia's production of 326,000 tonnes.
- Victoria is Australia's second largest wool producer in Australia after NSW (105,000 tonnes).

What is the value of production?

Gross value of wool

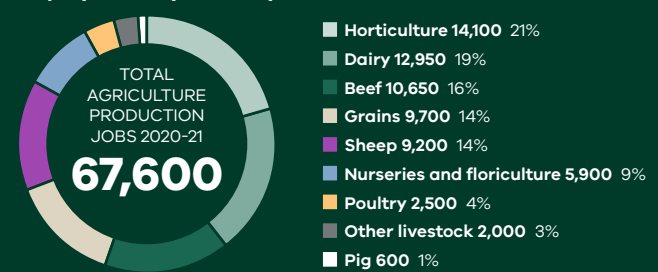


- In 2020-21, the gross value of Victorian wool production was \$717 million, a seven per cent (\$55 million) decrease on 2019-20.
- The gross value of wool contributed 4 per cent to Victoria's gross value of agricultural production of \$17.5 billion.
- The wool industry is Victoria's seventh largest agricultural industry after industries such as grains (\$3.6 billion), horticulture (\$3.2 billion), dairy (\$2.9 billion), beef (\$2.6 billion), and sheep (\$1.9 billion).

- Victoria contributed 27 per cent to Australia's gross value of wool production of around \$2.6 billion and is the largest wool producer after NSW (\$842 million).

Industry employment

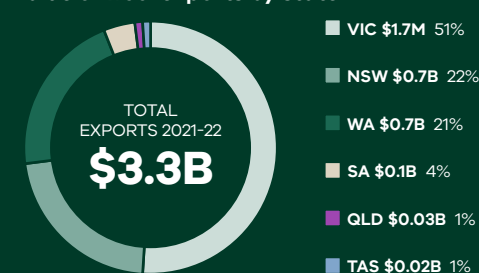
Employment by industry, Victoria



- 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 wool exports by state



- In 2021-22, Victoria exported 174,000 tonnes of wool exports valued at \$1.68 billion, a 27 per cent increase year-on-year.
- By value, Victoria is Australia's largest wool exporter accounting for 51 per cent of the nation's wool exports.
- Wool exports contributed 48 per cent to Victoria's total fibre exports (\$3.47 billion).
- By value, Victoria was Australia's largest wool exporter accounting for 51 per cent of total wool exports. Other major wool exporters are NSW (\$706 million) and Western Australia (\$693 million).
- China was Victoria's highest-value market for wool exports, valued at \$1.27 billion in 2021-22, followed by Italy (\$152 million) and India (\$88 million).