

# VICTORIAN BEEF INDUSTRY FAST FACTS

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AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



Agriculture Policy | Contact: Francis Karanja — francis.b.karanja@agriculture.vic.gov.au

**10,048** ▲ 4.3%  
Beef farm businesses  
(2019-20)

**18,800** ▲ 1.1%  
Jobs in beef industry  
(2020-21)

**\$2.9B** ▲ 22.9%  
Value of beef production  
(2019-20)

**\$2.3B** ▲ 26.4%  
Beef and veal exports  
(2019-20)

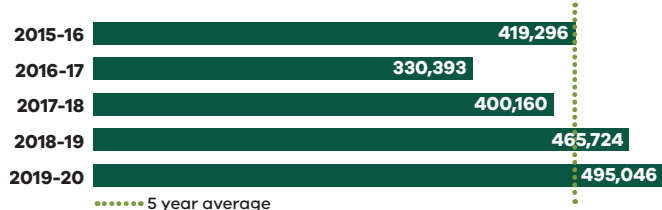
## Herd facts and figures

- Victoria's beef production is predominantly located in the Western District, Gippsland, Ovens Murray and Goulburn regions.
- There were 10,000 beef cattle farm businesses in Victoria in 2019-20, representing 23 per cent of the national beef cattle farm businesses.
- Victoria's herd size was 2.0 million of beef cattle accounting for 10 per cent of Australia's herd of 21.1 million.
- Victoria's herd comprise 1.4 million head of beef cows and heifers (one year and over) and 600,000 calves less than 1 year old.
- Victoria has the third largest population of beef cattle after Queensland (10.4 million) and NSW (3.6 million).

## How much is produced?

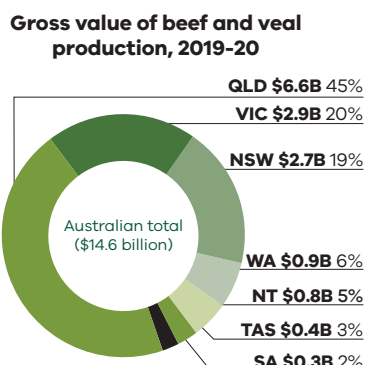
- In 2019-20, Victoria processed 1.8 million adult cattle and 300,000 calves, producing 495,000 tonnes of beef and veal (489,000 tonnes of beef and 6,000 tonnes of veal).
- Victoria contributes 21 per cent of Australia's beef production (2,374,000 tonnes).
- Victoria is the third largest beef and veal producer after Queensland (1.1 million tonnes) and NSW (516,000 tonnes).
- Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, Victoria's beef and veal meat production increased by 30,000 tonnes, an increase of 6 per cent.

## Victoria's beef and veal production (tonnes)



## What is the value of production?

- The gross value of Victorian cattle and calf production for meat in 2019-20 was estimated at \$2.9 billion. Cattle for meat are estimated to have contributed 16 per cent of Victoria's gross value of agricultural production of \$17.8 billion.
- Beef industry is Victoria's third largest agricultural industry after horticulture (\$3.1 billion), and dairy (\$3.0 billion).
- Victoria contributed 20 per cent to Australia's gross value of cattle and calf production estimated at \$14.6 billion.



- The gross value of red meat manufacturing in Victoria, including beef and sheep meat, is approximately \$4.4 billion.

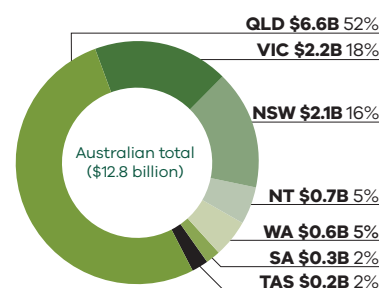
## Industry employment:

- It is estimated that around 18,800 people worked on farms that produce beef as the main commodity in the year to May 2021.

## Exports and domestic consumption of beef products

- The value of Victoria's total beef and veal exports in 2019-20 was \$2.25 billion, representing 48 per cent of all meat products exports.
- Victoria exported 272,000 tonnes of beef and veal valued at \$2.14 billion, and 19,000 tonnes of live cattle exports valued at \$111 million.
- Beef exports contributed 20 per cent to Victoria's total food exports (\$11.4 billion).
- Victoria is the second highest beef exporter after Queensland—contributing 18 per cent to Australia's total beef exports (\$12.8 billion).
- The United States was the highest value beef export market valued at \$726 million, followed by China (\$427 million), and Japan (\$311 million). These three markets accounted for 65 per cent of Victorian beef exports.

### Australia's beef exports by state, 2019-20



- Australians ate around 24 kilogram of beef per person in 2019-20.

## Prices:

- The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) performed strongly from 548 c/kg in January 2020 to 930 c/kg as of 25 June 2021. Cattle prices continue to be supported by competition between processors and farmers looking to restock.

## Farm financial performance

- ABARES reported improved farm financial performance of livestock farms in 2020-21. Better seasonal conditions resulted in reduced expenditure on fodder, higher receipts from beef cattle but lower receipts for sheep, lambs and wool because of a focus on flock rebuilding due to improved seasonal conditions.
- For specialist beef farms, average farm cash incomes increased by around \$6,500 to \$64,000 in 2020-21, with a combination of increased cattle sales, higher beef cattle prices and lower fodder costs.
- Farm business profit increased by \$24,500, from an average of negative \$28,500 in 2019-20 to negative \$4,000 in 2020-21.
- Softening restocker demand and global pressures to see prices ease in 2021.