

Victorian wool industry

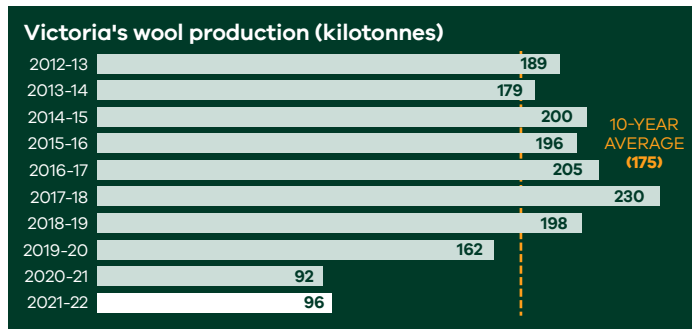
Fast Facts
June 2024



Sheep Flock facts and figures

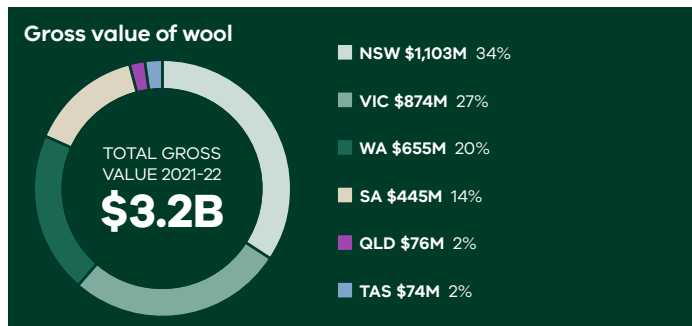
- In 2021-22, 2,500 farms in Victoria specialised in sheep farming, which is 24% of Australia's total 10,400 sheep farms. Additionally, Victoria had 2,100 mixed livestock farms and 650 sheep-beef farms.
- Victoria accounted for about 21% of Australia's sheep flock, with a total of 14.6 million sheep out of 70 million.
- Victoria has the second-largest sheep population in Australia, after New South Wales (NSW) (which had 27 million sheep).

How much wool is produced?



- Victoria produced 96,000 tonnes of wool in 2021-22. This production was 4% more than in 2020-21 (92,000 tonnes).
- Victorian wool production represents 28% of Australia's production of 348,000 tonnes.
- Victoria is Australia's second largest wool producer in Australia after NSW (116,000 tonnes).

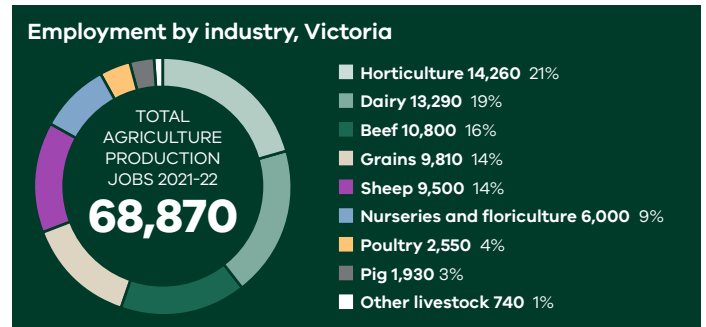
What is the value of wool production?



- In 2021-22, the gross value of Victorian wool production was \$874 million, a 22% (\$157 million) increase on 2020-21.
- The gross value of wool contributed 4% to Victoria's gross value of agricultural production of \$20.2 billion.

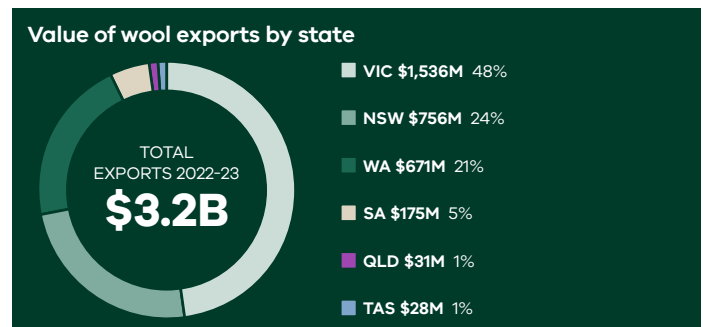
- The wool industry is Victoria's eighth largest agricultural industry after industries such as grains (\$4.2 billion), horticulture (\$3.9 billion), dairy (\$3.0 billion), beef (\$2.9 billion), and sheep (\$2.2 billion).
- Victoria contributed 27% to Australia's gross value of wool production of approximately \$3.2 billion and is the second largest wool producer after NSW (\$1.1 billion).

Industry employment



- Approximately 9,500 individuals were employed on sheep meat/wool farms in 2021-22, representing a 3.3% increase in job numbers from 2020-21.
- The sheep industry accounts for 14% of agricultural employment in Victoria.

How much wool is exported?



- In 2022-23, Victoria exported 175,000 tonnes of wool exports, valued at \$1.5 billion, an 8% decrease year-on-year.
- Wool exports contributed 8% to Victoria's total food and fibre exports (\$19.6 billion).
- By value, Victoria was Australia's largest wool exporter, accounting for 48% of total wool exports. Other major wool exporters are NSW (\$756 million) and Western Australia (\$671 million).
- China was Victoria's highest-value market for wool exports, valued at \$1.2 billion in 2022-23, followed by Italy (\$101 million) and India (\$98 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 June 2024