**BEEF INDUSTRY FARM FACTS**

**January 2023**

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# Key highlights

* **5,300 beef specialist farm businesses in 2020-21, up 15 per cent on the previous year**
* **10,650 jobs in the beef industry (2020-21), a 1.9% increase from 2019-20**
* **$2.6 billion value of beef production (2020-21), an 11% decrease from 2019-20**
* **$1.7 billion worth of beef and veal exports (2021-22), a 24% increase year-on-year**

# Herd facts and figures

* Victoria’s beef production is predominantly located in the South West, Gippsland, Hume and North West regions.
* There were 5,300 beef specialist farm businesses in Victoria in 2020‑21, representing 25 per cent of the national beef specialist farm businesses. There were a further 1,750# mixed‑livestock and 680 sheep‑beef farms in Victoria.
* Victoria’s herd size was 2.1 million beef cattle accounting for about 10 per cent of Australia’s beef herd of 22 million.
* Victoria has the third largest population of beef cattle after Queensland (10.6 million) and New South Wales (NSW) (4.2 million).

# How much beef and veal is produced?

* In 2020‑21, Victoria processed 1.5 million cattle and calves, producing 390,000 tonnes of beef and veal, down 106,000 tonnes (21%) compared to 2019‑20 (495,000 tonnes).
* Victoria accounted for 20 per cent of Australia’s beef production (1,931,435 tonnes).
* Victoria is the third largest beef producer after Queensland (923,000 tonnes) and NSW (402,000 tonnes).

# What is the value of production?

* In 2020‑21, the gross value of Victorian cattle and calves meat production was $2.6 billion.
* Cattle for beef contributed 15 per cent to Victoria’s gross value of agricultural production of $17.5 billion.
* The beef industry is Victoria’s fourth largest agricultural industry after grains ($3.6 billion), horticulture ($3.2 billion) and dairy ($2.9 billion).
* Victoria contributed 19 per cent to Australia’s gross value of cattle and calves production of around $13.5 billion.

# Jobs in the beef industry

* It is estimated that 10,650 people were employed in the Victorian beef industry in 2020‑21, representing a 1.9 per cent increase on 2019‑20 job numbers.
* The beef industry contributed 16 per cent to Victorian agricultural jobs in 2020‑21.

# How much is exported?

* In 2021‑22, the value of Victoria’s beef exports was $1.7 billion, representing 39 per cent of all meat exports.
* Beef exports contributed 12 per cent to Victoria’s total food exports ($14.4 billion).
* Victoria was the third highest beef exporter after Queensland ($5.8 billion) and NSW ($1.9 billion), accounting for 16 per cent of Australia’s beef exports.
* The United States was Victoria’s highest‑value market for beef exports, valued at $474 million in 2021‑22, followed by Japan ($288 million) and China ($276 million).