

**VICTORIAN HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY**

**FAST FACTS**

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**Key highlights**

* **2,850 horticulture farm businesses in 2019-20, up 3.0 per cent on previous year**
* **15,400 jobs in horticulture industry (year to May 2021), 10.2% increase from May 2020**
* **$3.13 billion value of horticulture production (2019-20), 5.8% increase on 2018-19**
* **$1.6 billion worth of horticulture exports (2019-20), 1.9% increase year-on-year**

**Horticulture farms facts and figures**

* These fast facts are limited to horticultural produce for human consumption (nurseries, cut flowers or turf are not included).
* There were around 2,900 horticulture farm businesses in Victoria in 2019-20: including 980 fruit and nuts, 310 table and dried grapes, 810 wine grapes and 740 vegetable farm businesses. Horticulture farms account for 13 per cent of Victoria’s farm businesses.
* Around 21 per cent of Australia’s horticulture farm businesses are located in Victoria.
* The 2,900 farms operate on approximately 106,900 hectares (or 24% of Australia’s horticulture farms area).

**How much is produced?**

* Victoria produced around 1,400 kilotonnes (kt) of horticultural produce in 2019-20 comprising 480 kt of fruit and nuts, 100 kt of table and dried grapes, 200 kt of wine grapes and 700 kt of vegetables. Victoria accounts for 27 per cent of Australia’s 5,600 kt horticulture produce and is the largest horticulture producer in Australia.
* Victoria is also Australia’s largest fruit and nuts producer accounting for 38 per cent of the national production; number one producer of table and dried grapes contributing 70 per cent of Australia’s table and dried grapes production. Victoria is the third largest producer (after SA and NSW) of wine grapes accounting for 14 per cent of Australia’s wine grapes production and the largest vegetables producer accounting for 25 per cent of national vegetables production.
* Victoria is also Australia’s largest fruit and nuts producer accounting for 91 per cent of peaches, 85 per cent of nectarines, 74 per cent of olives, 67 per cent of almonds, and 48 per cent of apples.

**What is the value of production?**

* The gross value of Victorian horticulture sector was around $3.13 billion in 2019-20, up 5.8 per cent from the previous year. Horticulture production contributed 18 per cent of Victoria’s agricultural production value of $17.8 billion.
* Gross value of Victoria’s major horticultural commodities included $1.5 billion from fruit and nuts, $418 million from table and dried grapes, $114 million from wine grapes and $1.1 billion from vegetables.
* Victoria contributed 28 per cent to the national gross value of horticulture production of $11.1 billion.

**Sector employment**

* The industry employs 15,400 people, with an additional 6,000 consultants and year-round casual workers, plus a seasonal workforce which peaks at around 20,000 in most years pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Horticulture exports performance**

* In 2019-20, Victoria’s total horticulture exports were valued at $1.6 billion. Victoria’s horticulture exports represent 14 per cent of Victoria’s total food exports ($11.4 billion).
* Fruit exports increased by $84 million (10 per cent) to be valued at $904 million in 2019-20. Table grapes recorded the largest growth in export value, increasing by $59 million (12 per cent) to a record $562 million. Nuts exports declined by 13 per cent ($69 million) to be valued at $463 million. Victoria contributed 70 per cent to Australia’s almonds exports. Vegetable exports were valued at $55 million.
* Victoria is the largest horticulture exporter accounting for 50 per cent of Australia’s total horticulture exports valued at $3.2 billion.
* China was the highest value horticulture export market valued at $646 million (or 40 per cent of horticultural exports), followed by Japan ($102 million) and New Zealand ($86 million).

**Farm financial performance**

* Vegetable-growing businesses have on average remained profitable during the last 5 years to 2019-20, though profitability varies widely. The average profit for vegetable-growing business was $245,000 in 2018-19, decreasing by 11 per cent from $276,000 in 2017-18.

**Outlook**

* Nationally, gross value of horticultural production was forecast in December 2020 (by ABARES) to increase to 15 per cent above the five-year average during 2020-21. The value of vegetable production is forecast to be 14 per cent above average in 2020-21, while the value of fruit and tree nut production was forecast to increase to be 18 per cent above average.
* The forecast growth in the value of horticultural production is expected from an increase in demand for horticultural produce.
* The forecast increase in the prices of horticultural output will increase the revenues of producers.
* Seasonal conditions and input prices other than labour are also largely supportive for profitable horticulture production in the foreseeable future, including water and finance costs.
* In 2020-21, the value of horticulture production is forecast to fall slightly due to small price falls.