**DAIRY INDUSTRY FARM FACTS**

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# Key highlights

* **3,100 dairy farm businesses in 2020-21, down 11 per cent on the previous year**
* **13,000 jobs in the dairy industry (2020-21), a 3.3% decrease from 2019-20**
* **$2.9 billion value of milk production (2020-21), an 5% decrease from 2019-20**
* **$2.5 billion worth of dairy products exports (2021-22), a 23% increase year-on-year**

# Herd facts and figures

* There were around 3,100 dairy farm businesses in Victoria in 2020-21, accounting for 67 per cent of the 4,600 dairy farms in Australia.
* Victorian dairy farms are concentrated in Gippsland (35%), South-West Victoria (33%), and Northern Victoria (32%).
* In Victoria, there was a total of 1.5 million dairy cattle (including cows in milk and dry, heifers and calves less than one-year-old) in 2020-21. Victoria’s herd size represents 61 per cent of the national dairy herd of 2.4 million head).

# How much milk is produced?

* Victoria is Australia’s largest dairy-producing state, producing 5.65 billion litres of milk in 2020-21—close to two-thirds of Australia’s milk production.
* Northern Victoria, South West Victoria and Gippsland dairying regions account for approximately 19 per cent, 22 per cent and 23 per cent of Australia’s milk production, respectively.
* On average, manufactured exports account for 29 per cent of milk produced in Victoria, while the remaining milk is used for domestic manufacturing (60%) and drinking milk sales (11%).

# What is the value of production?

* In 2020-21, the gross value of the 5.65 billion litres of milk produced in Victoria was $2.86 billion, a decrease of $147 million (down 5 per cent) on the previous year.
* Milk accounted for 16 per cent of Victoria’s gross agricultural production value of 17.5 billion.
* The dairy industry is Victoria’s third largest agricultural industry after grains ($3.6 billion) and horticulture ($3.2 billion).
* Victoria contributed 61 per cent to Australia’s gross value of milk production, estimated at $4.7 billion, cementing Victoria’s position as the nation’s largest milk producer.

# Jobs in the dairy industry

* It is estimated that approximately 13,000 persons worked on farms producing milk in 2020-21, representing a 3.3 per cent decrease from 2019-20 job numbers.
* The dairy industry contributes 19 per cent to Victorian agricultural jobs.

# How much is exported?

* Victoria’s total dairy exports were valued at $2.51 billion in 2021-22, representing 17 per cent of Victoria’s total food exports ($14.4 billion).
* Milk and cream products were the highest value dairy category, contributing 52 per cent of Victoria’s dairy exports. Cheese and whey products were the second highest value category at $872 million (35 per cent of dairy exports).
* Victoria is the largest dairy exporter accounting for 73 per cent of Australia’s total dairy exports ($3.4 billion).
* China remained the major destination for Victorian dairy exports in 2021-22, at $794 million, followed by Japan ($333 million), Indonesia ($204 million), Malaysia ($185 million) and Singapore ($165 million).