**SHEEP INDUSTRY FARM FACTS**

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# Key highlights

* **3,000 sheep specialist farm businesses in 2020-21, down 18 per cent on the previous year**
* **9,200 jobs in the sheep industry (2020-21), a 1.5% increase from 2019-20**
* **$1.9 billion value of sheep meat production (2020-21), a 14% decrease from 2019-20**
* **$1.9 billion worth of sheep meat exports (2021-22), a 35% increase year-on-year**

# Sheep flock facts and figures

* There were 3,000 sheep specialist farm businesses in Victoria in 2020-21, representing 29 per cent of Australia’s 10,100 sheep specialist farms. There were a further 1,750 mixed livestock and 680 sheep-beef farms in Victoria.
* Victoria’s flock size was 15.4 million sheep accounting for about 23 per cent of Australia’s sheep flock totalling 68 million.
* Victoria has the second-largest sheep population after New South Wales (NSW) (25 million).

# How much is produced?

* In 2020-21, Victoria processed 12.4 million sheep to produce 307,000 tonnes of sheep meat. Sheep meat production was 2.5 per cent less than in 2019-20 (315,000 tonnes).
* Victoria accounted for 47 per cent of Australia’s sheep meat production (660,000 tonnes).
* Victoria is Australia’s largest sheep meat producer, followed by NSW (183,000 tonnes) and Western Australia (86,000 tonnes).

# What is the value of production?

* In 2020-21, the gross value of Victorian sheep meat production was $1.9 billion, accounting for 11 per cent of Victoria’s gross value of agricultural production of $17.5 billion.
* The sheep meat industry is Victoria’s fifth largest agricultural industry after grains ($3.6 billion), horticulture ($3.2 billion), dairy ($2.9 billion), and beef ($2.6 billion).
* Victoria contributed 44 per cent to Australia’s gross value of sheep meat production of around $4.3 billion.

# Jobs in the sheep industry

* We estimate that approximately 9,200 persons worked on farms that produced sheep meat/wool in 2020-21, representing a 1.5 per cent increase on 2019-20 job numbers.
* The sheep industry contributes 14 per cent to Victorian agricultural jobs.

# How much is exported?

* In 2021-22, the value of Victoria’s sheep meat exports was $1.9 billion, representing 43 per cent of all meat exports.
* Victoria exported 208,000 tonnes of sheep meat, comprising 133,000 tonnes of lamb and 75,000 tonnes of mutton.
* Sheep meat exports contributed 13 per cent to Victoria’s total food exports ($14.4 billion).
* By value, Victoria is Australia’s highest sheep meat exporter (followed by NSW ($1.4 billion)), accounting for 41 per cent of Australia’s sheep meat exports.
* The United States is Victoria’s highest-value market for sheep meat exports (valued at $598 million in 2020-21), followed by China ($206 million) and Malaysia ($165 million).).