**WOOL 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**
* **$717 million value of wool produced (2020-21), a 7% decrease from 2019-20**
* **$1.7 billion worth of wool exports (2021-22), a 27% 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?

* Victoria produced 92,000 tonnes of wool in 2020-21. This production was 43 per cent less than in 2019-20 (162,000 tonnes).
* Victorian wool production represents 28 per cent of Australia’s production of 326,000 tonnes.
* Victoria is Australia’s second largest wool producer in Australia after NSW (105,000 tonnes).

# What is the value of production?

* In 2020-21, the gross value of Victorian wool production was $717 million, a seven per cent ($55 million) decrease on 2019-20.
* The gross value of wool contributed 4 per cent to Victoria’s gross value of agricultural production of $17.5 billion.
* The wool industry is Victoria’s seventh largest agricultural industry after industries such as grains ($3.6 billion), horticulture ($3.2 billion), dairy ($2.9 billion), beef ($2.6 billion), and sheep ($1.9 billion).
* Victoria contributed 27 per cent to Australia’s gross value of wool production of around $2.6 billion and is the largest wool producer after NSW ($842 million).

# Jobs in the wool 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, Victoria exported 174,000 tonnes of wool exports valued at $1.68 billion, a 27 per cent increase year-on-year.
* By value, Victoria is Australia’s largest wool exporter accounting for 51 per cent of the nation’s wool exports.
* Wool exports contributed 48 per cent to Victoria’s total fibre exports ($3.47 billion).
* By value, Victoria was Australia’s largest wool exporter accounting for 51 per cent of total wool exports. Other major wool exporters are NSW ($706 million) and Western Australia ($693 million).
* China was Victoria’s highest-value market for wool exports, valued at $1.27 billion in 2021-22, followed by Italy ($152 million) and India ($88 million).