Quarterly production and slaughter volumes

MLA MARKET INFORMATION

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		Slaughter (head)	Production (tonne)	Carcase weight (kg)	Live export (head)	Total turnoff (head)	Seasonal estimate (Full Year Run Rate*)	Value of production (A$)	Value per animal (A$)	Why**
Beef	Figure	**2,127,200**	**648,763**	**304.98**	**211,244**	**2,338,444**	**8,664,756**	**3,646,288,378**	**1,714**	Carcase weights have dropped back to 2020 levels. Increased slaughter is mainly from elevated grassfed turnoff. Grassfed cattle are lighter, so as they make up a higher proportion, national averages will ease.
	Quarter on Quarter change	17%	14%	-3%	42%	19%	5%	14%	-3%	
	Year on year change	23%	19%	-3%	24%	23%	21%	11%	-10%	
	Comparison to 5 year average	23%	23%	-1%	-1%	20%	12%	9%	-13%	
Male cattle	Figure	**998,226**	**339,909**	**340.51**	–	–	–	–	–	Male slaughter lifted to numbers not seen since 2018. Genetic investment and growth in feedlots have allowed steers to reach processor-ready weights younger. The herd is operating at its maintenance peak.
	Quarter on Quarter change	6%	5%	-2%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Year on year change	11%	9%	-2%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Comparison to 5 year average	13%	14%	1%	–	–	–	–	–	
Female cattle	Figure	**1,128,946**	**308,855**	**273.58**	–	–	–	–	–	Female slaughter lifted significantly over the second quarter. A portion of this slaughter is elevated cow turnoff. Breeding cows were retained over the rebuild, and now, with prices supported by US demand, producers are selling older stock.
	Quarter on Quarter change	29%	26%	-3%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Year on year change	36%	33%	-2%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Comparison to 5 year average	35%	36%	0%	–	–	–	–	–	

Female slaughter rate (FSR)	FSR	**53.1%**
	Quarter on Quarter change	5%
	Year on year change	5%
	Comparison to 5 year average	5%

Rebuild Status

The Female Slaughter Rate (FSR) measures the percentage of female cattle slaughtered relative to the total. Industry uses a 47% FSR as a technical lead indicator for gauging whether the national cattle herd is undergoing liquidation or a rebuild phase. This quarter, the FSR tipped 53%, resulting in a second-quarter above the benchmark. This indicates the herd is in a technical destock. However, this elevated female slaughter has been driven mainly by the turnoff of retained older breeding cows rather than drought-driven liquidation.

		Slaughter (head)	Production (tonne)	Carcase weight (kg)	Live export (head)	Total turnoff (head)	Seasonal estimate (Full Year Run Rate*)	Value of production (A$)	Value per animal (A$)	Why**
Sheepmeat	Figure	**9,949,600**	**243,902**	**24.51**	**61,247**	**10,010,847**	**40,107,440**	**1,412,184,727**	**141.93**	Live exports are down due to two technical issues. Earlier in the year, shipments to Kuwait were halted due to unforeseen ship maintenance. Additionally, exports to Israel slowed due to issues related to the conflict and tension along the trade route.
	Quarter on Quarter change	2%	3%	1%	-73%	1%	-4%	12%	10%	
	Year on year change	16%	16%	0%	-73%	13%	17%	20%	4%	
	Comparison to 5 year average	32%	32%	-1%	-64%	30%	29%	18%	-12%	
Lamb	Figure	**7,224,800**	**177,147**	**24.52**	–	–	–	–	–	Lamb slaughter across Australia lifted to a record 7.2 m head. Three years of consistent rebuilding has encouraged growth among producers. Positive conditions across NSW and QLD promoted an impressive lamb cohort, which is now being turned off.
	Quarter on Quarter change	4%	6%	2%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Year on year change	19%	19%	-1%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Comparison to 5 year average	29%	30%	1%	–	–	–	–	–	
Sheep	Figure	**2,724,800**	**66,755**	**24.50**	–	–	–	–	–	Despite a reduction in sheep slaughter over the quarter, quarter two figures lifted financial year sheep slaughter to 10.2m, the highest since 2008. Dry conditions across southern Australia have caused the turnoff of retained ewes.
	Quarter on Quarter change	-2%	-4%	-2%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Year on year change	7%	9%	2%	–	–	–	–	–	
	Comparison to 5 year average	41%	35%	-4%	–	–	–	–	–	
Goat	Figure	**878,128**	**13,592**	**15.48**	**6,891**	**885,019**	**3,351,702**	–	–	Goat slaughter and production have been steadily climbing since the end of the drought. Positive seasons, along with a supporting price, have encouraged further participation in goat production. Quarterly slaughter and production are the highest on record.
	Quarter on Quarter change	18%	17%	-1%	226%	19%	22%	–	–	
	Year on year change	60%	57%	-2%	-23%	58%	52%	–	–	
	Comparison to 5 year average	108%	101%	-4%	125%	109%	102%	–	–	

Source: MLA/ABS

*NB: Based on historical seasonality (2000–2022)

** Note: The reasoning behind these figures are not solely attributed to the brief explanation in this doucment. For further justification of the drivers of these figures, contact insights@mla.com.au