

Fast Facts

2024

Australia's beef industry

The industry turnover of the beef cattle farming sector in 2022–23 was **\$25.3 billion** and accounted for **31%** of the total industry turnover in that year (*MLA State of the Industry Report – 2024*).

At the time of publication, figures included in this document were the most up-to-date available but may be subject to revision.

Herd facts and figures:

- There are 53,359 agricultural businesses involved in the cattle industry (*MLA State of the Industry Report – 2024*).
- There are 29.8 million head of cattle including 2.1 million head of dairy cattle as of June 2023 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2024).

People in the industry:

- The Australian red meat and livestock industry employed approximately 418,921 people.
- Around 194,712 people are directly employed in the red meat and livestock industry, including on-farm production, processing and retail.

How much is produced?

- In 2023, Australia produced approximately 2.2 million tonnes carcass weight (cwt) of beef and veal (ABS).
- In 2023, 2.6 million grainfed cattle were marketed (feedlot turn-off) – 38% of all adult cattle slaughtered (*ALFA/MLA Quarterly Lot Feeding brief*).

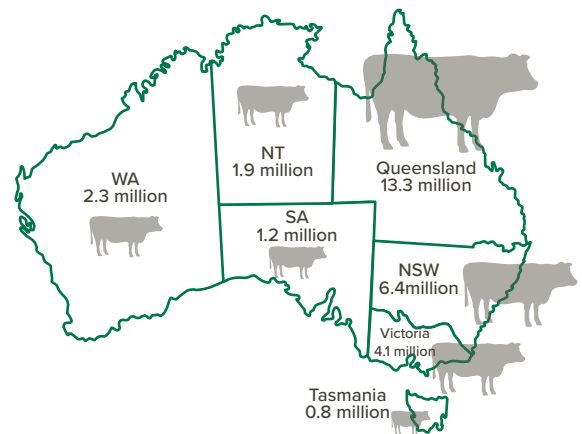
What is the value of production?

- The gross value of Australian cattle and calf production (including live cattle exports) in 2023–24 is forecast at A\$14.7 billion (ABARES Agricultural Commodities Outlook, June 2024).
- Beef cattle farms are estimated to have an industry value add of \$13.6 million with feedlots contributing \$0.73 million (*MLA State of the Industry Report – 2024*).

Domestic value and consumption:

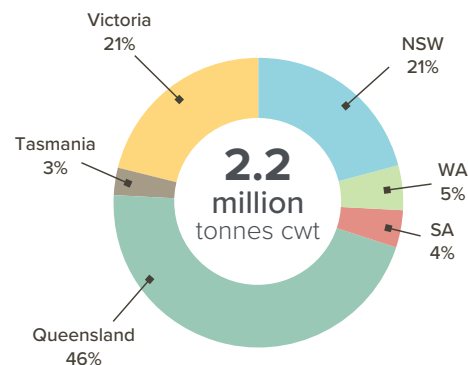
- Domestic expenditure on beef was approximately \$11.5 billion in 2023 (MLA estimate).
- Australian per capita consumption of beef was approximately 23.4kg in 2023, while the global average was 6.0kg (*MLA State of the Industry Report – 2024*).

National cattle numbers as at June 2023: 30 million head



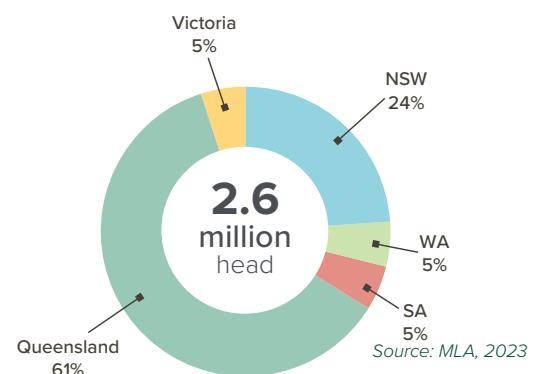
Source: ABS

Australian beef and veal production



Source: ABS, 2023

Australian lotfed cattle turn-off



Source: MLA, 2023

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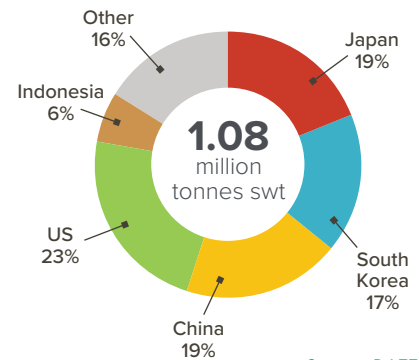
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Export value and volume:

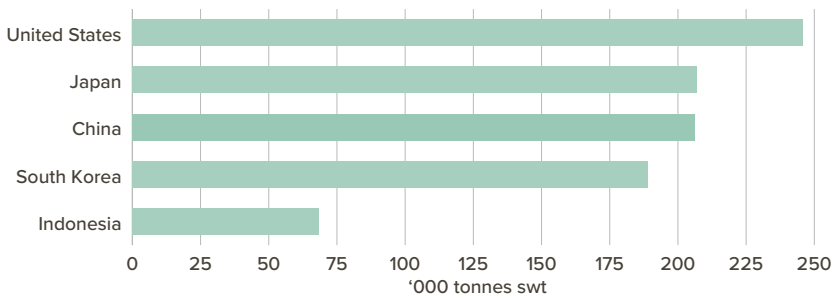
- In 2023, Australian beef and veal exports totalled 1.08 million tonnes swt, up 27% year-on-year (DAFF).
- The value of Australian beef exports was \$11.3 billion in 2023, which is an increase of 11% year-on-year (TDM).
- Live cattle exports totalled 673,695 head in 2023, up 12% from 2022 (DAFF).

Australian beef and veal exports



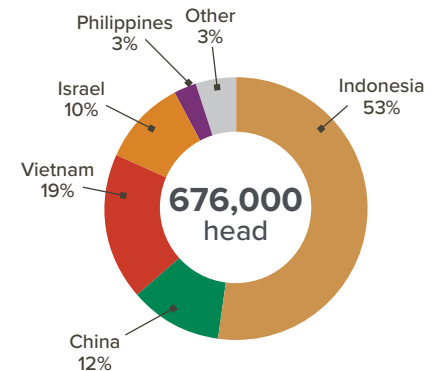
Source: DAFF, 2023

Australia's top five beef and veal export markets in 2023



Source: DAFF, 2023

Australian live cattle exports*

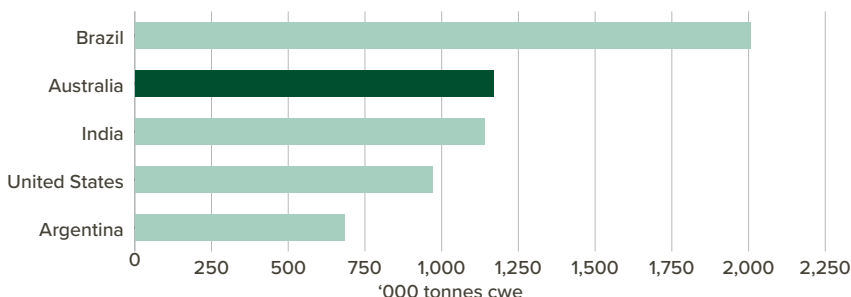


*includes dairy cattle
Source: DAFF, 2023

Australia's place in the world:

- Australia accounts for approximately 1.9% of the world's cattle herd in 2022 (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2024).
- Australia was the second largest beef and bovine meat exporter in 2023, after Brazil and ahead of India and the US (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2024).

Top five beef and veal exporting countries in 2023



Source: DAFF, IHS Markit, Global Trade Atlas.

For further information read MLA's State of the Industry Report – 2024 [Click here to read the report](#)

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