The off-farm meat value (domestic expenditure plus export value, including live export) of the Australian beef industry was approximately $20.2 billion in 2019 – up 3% on the 2018 period (MLA estimate).

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 45,712 agricultural businesses involved in the cattle industry (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).
- 24.7 million head of cattle in Australia as of June 2019 (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).\(^1\)

People in the industry:
- Around 189,000 people are employed in the red meat industry, including on-farm production, processing and retail (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).

How much is produced?
- In 2019, 3.0 million grainfed cattle were marketed (feedlot turn-off) – 36% of all adult cattle slaughtered (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).

What is the value of production?
- The gross value of Australian cattle and calf production (including live cattle exports) in 2019–20 is estimated at A$15.1 billion (ABARES Agricultural Commodities September 2020).
- Cattle are estimated to have contributed 23% of the total farm value of A$66.5 billion in 2019–20 (ABARES Agricultural Commodities September 2020).

Domestic value and consumption:
- Domestic expenditure on beef was approximately A$7.8 billion in 2019 (MLA estimate).

\(^1\) Beef cattle numbers as at June 2019 were 22.4 million head (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2018–19). Dairy cattle numbers as at June 2019 were 2.3 million head (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2018–19).
Export value and volume:
- In 2019, Australia exported 76% of its total beef and veal production (MLA Estimate).
- The value of total beef and veal exports in 2019 was A$10.8 billion (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).
- Australian live cattle exports were valued at A$1.6 billion in 2018–19 (ABS), with 1.3 million head exported (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).

Australia’s place in the world:
- Australia has approximately 2% of the world’s cattle herd. (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).
- Australia is the 2nd largest beef exporter in the world behind Brazil (MLA State of the Industry Report – 2020).

Australia’s top five beef and veal export markets

```
Country       | '000 tonnes swt |
--------------|-----------------|
China         | 300             |
Japan         | 275             |
US            | 200             |
South Korea   | 175             |
Indonesia     | 150             |
```

Source: DAWE, 2019

Australian live cattle exports*

```
Country       | '000 tonnes swt |
--------------|-----------------|
China         | 1.23            |
Japan         | 0.28            |
US            | 0.26            |
Korea         | 0.22            |
Indonesia     | 0.12            |
```

Source: DAWE, 2019

Top five beef and veal exporting countries

```
Country       | '000 tonnes cwe |
--------------|-----------------|
Brazil        | 2,000           |
Australia     | 1,750           |
India         | 1,500           |
US            | 1,250           |
Argentina     | 1,000           |
```


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