

# Fast Facts

# 2017



## Australia's beef industry

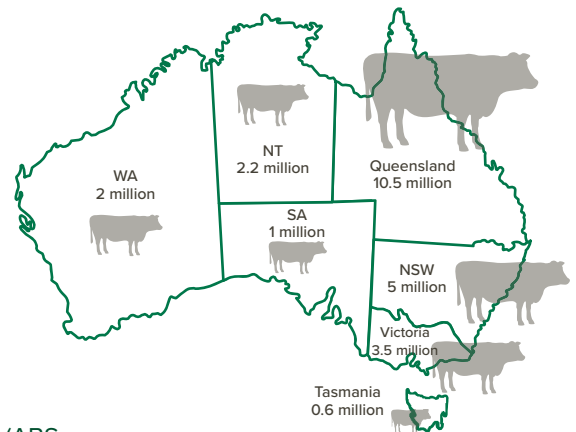
**The off-farm value (domestic expenditure plus export value) of the Australian beef and cattle industry was \$16.85 billion in 2016-17 (ABS, MLA estimate).**

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:

- 47,021 agricultural businesses with cattle (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2015-16).
- 25 million head of cattle in Australia as at 30 June 2016 (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2015-16).
- 11.5 million head of beef cows and heifers aged one year and over as at 30 June 2016 (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2015-16).
- The cattle industry involves 55% of all businesses with agricultural activity (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2015-16).

National cattle numbers  
as at June 2016: 25 million head



Source: ABS (final estimates 2016)

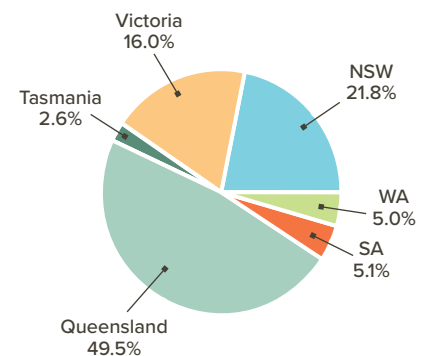
### People in the industry:

- Around 200,000 people are employed in the red meat industry, including on-farm production, processing and retail (MISP 2020).

### How much is produced?

- In 2016-17, Australia produced approximately 2.07 million tonnes cwt of beef and veal (ABS).
- In 2016-17, 2.7 million grainfed cattle were marketed (feedlot turn-off) – 39% of all adult cattle slaughtered.

Australian beef and veal production  
2.07 million tonnes cwt (2016-17)

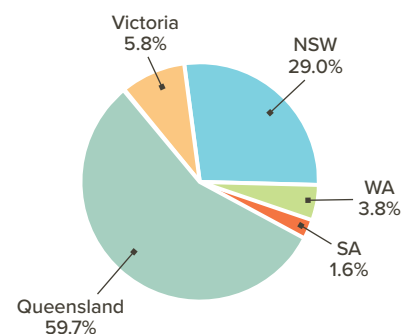


Source: ABS

### What is the value of production?

- The gross value of Australian cattle and calf production (including live cattle exports) in 2016-17 is estimated at A\$12.7 billion (ABARES Agricultural commodities June 2017).
- Cattle are estimated to have contributed 20% of the total farm value of A\$62.8 billion in 2016-17 (ABARES Agricultural Commodities June 2017).

Australian lotfed cattle marketings  
2.7 million head (2016-17)



Source: ALFA/MLA

### Domestic value and consumption:

- Domestic expenditure on beef was approximately A\$8.5 billion in 2016-17 (ABS, MLA estimate).
- Australians ate around 26kg of beef per person in 2016-17 (ABS, DAWR, MLA estimate<sup>1</sup>).
- Beef had the highest share of retail sales of any meat in 2016-17, with around 36% share of fresh meat sales (by value). (AC Nielsen HomeScan)
- Beef is the third most popular fresh meat protein consumed through the foodservice industry after chicken and seafood (RIRDC/Fresh Agenda).

<sup>1</sup> Domestic per capita consumption is calculated by subtracting the volume exported from the volume produced and imported on a carcass weight equivalent basis, and then dividing by the latest ABS Australian population estimate. The long term consumption trend within Australia has been a gradual decline driven by various demographic, social, commercial and other factors. Australians are the sixth-largest consumers of beef in the world (OECD – based on per capita consumption, 2016) and beef remains a very popular meat choice that has pride of place in Australian hearts and minds.

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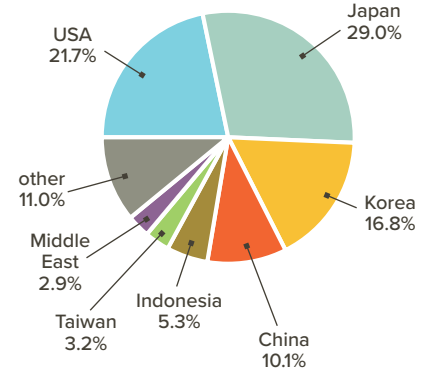
### Export value and volume:

- In 2016-17, Australia exported 68% of its total beef and veal production to 77 countries (DAWR, ABS).
- The value of total beef and veal exports in 2016-17 was A\$7.1 billion (ABS/GTA).
- Australian live cattle exports were valued at A\$1.2 billion in 2016-17 (ABS), with 907,965 head exported.

### Australia's place in the world:

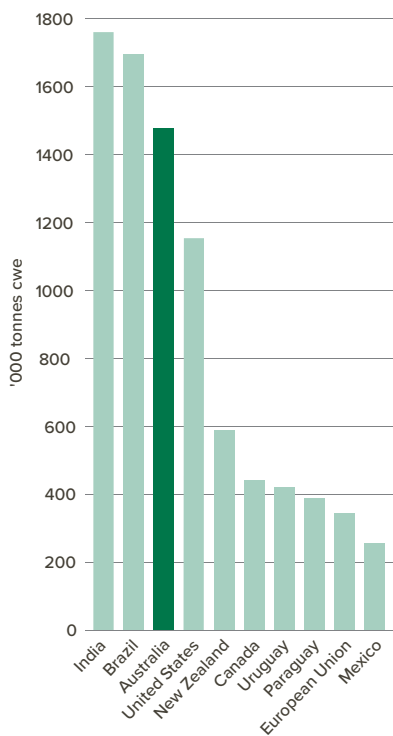
- Australia has approximately 3% of the world's cattle and buffalo inventory, with India, Brazil and China taking the top three places (USDA 2017).
- Australia produces 3% of the world's beef supply and is the third largest beef exporter in the world (USDA 2017).

Australian beef exports  
962,983 tonnes swt (2016-17)



Source: DAWR

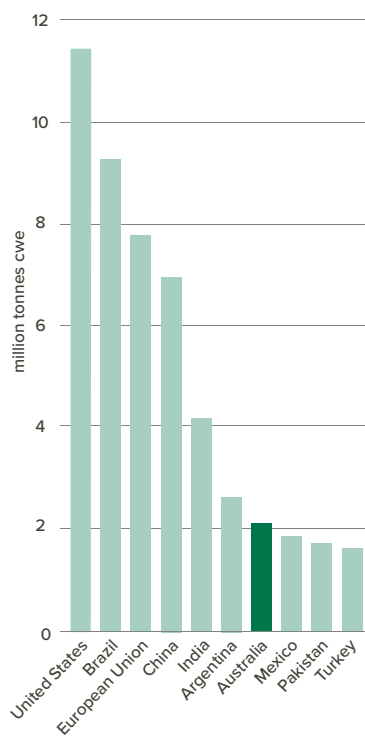
Top ten world beef exporters\*  
(2016)



\* includes buffalo meat

Source: USDA

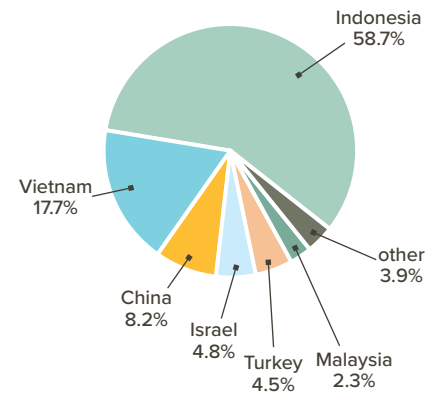
Top ten beef producing countries\*  
(2016)



\* includes buffalo meat

Source: USDA

Australian live cattle exports\*\*  
907,965 head (2016-17)



\*\* includes dairy cattle

Source: DAWR