

Fast Facts

2017

Australia's sheep industry

Australia is the world largest exporter of sheepmeat, and is the world's second largest producer of lamb and mutton (FAO). The off-farm meat value (domestic expenditure plus export value) of the Australian sheepmeat industry was approximately \$5.23 billion in 2016-17 – up 3% on the 2015-16 period (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.

Flock facts and figures:

- 31,136 agricultural businesses with sheep and lambs (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2015-16).
- There were 37.2 million head of breeding ewes aged one-year and older as at 30 June 2016 (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2015-16).
- Prime lamb producers are predominately located in the Riverina, the wheat-sheep zone of NSW, the Victorian and NSW Murray region and the high rainfall areas in south-west Victoria and eastern South Australia. Sheep are primarily located in south-west WA, south western part of Victoria and the southern part of NSW.
- The sheepmeat industry accounts for 36% of all businesses with agricultural activity (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2015-16).

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 506,239 tonnes cwt of lamb and 163,365 tonnes cwt of mutton (ABS).

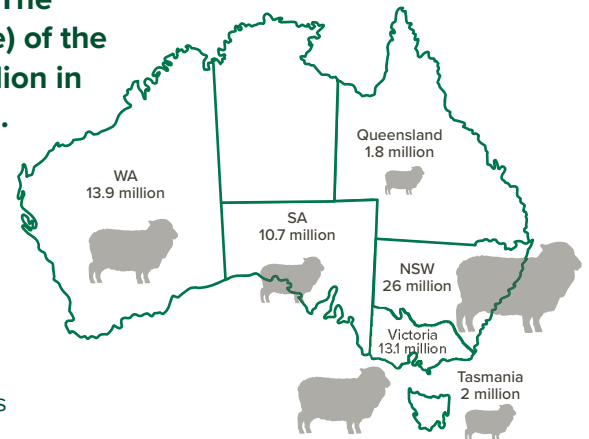
What is the value of production

- The gross value of Australian lamb and mutton production (including live exports) in 2016-17 is estimated at A\$3.9 billion (ABARES Agricultural Commodities June 2017).
- Lamb and mutton production (including live exports) contributed 6% to the total farm value of A\$62.8 billion in 2016-17 (ABARES Agricultural Commodities June 2017).

Domestic value and consumption:

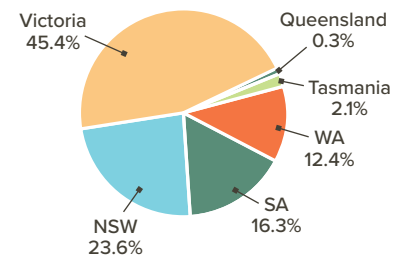
- Domestic expenditure was approximately A\$2.3 billion on lamb and \$88 million on mutton in 2016-17 (ABS, MLA estimate).
- Australians ate around 9kg of lamb and 0.5kg of mutton per person in 2016-17 (ABS, DAWR, MLA Estimate¹) – among the highest sheepmeat consumption in the world.
- Lamb had the third-highest share of retail sales of any meat in 2016-17, with around 13% share of fresh meat sales (by value). (AC Nielsen HomeScan).

National sheep numbers as at June 2016: 67.5 million head



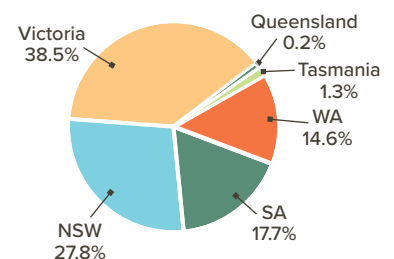
Source: ABS (final estimates 2016)

Australian lamb production 506,239 tonnes cwt (2016-17)



Source: ABS

Australian mutton production 163,365 tonnes cwt (2016-17)



Source: ABS

¹ 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.

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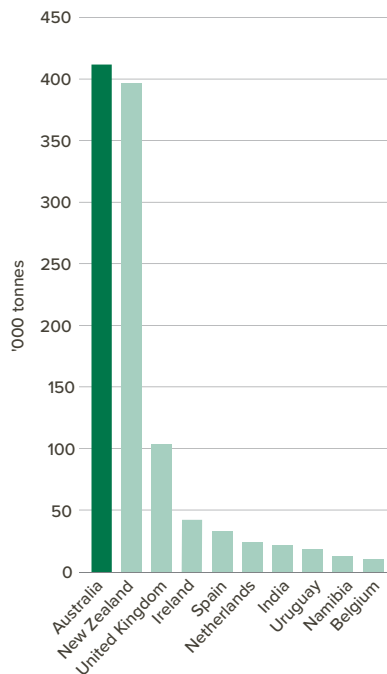
Export value and volume:

- In 2016-17, Australia exported 57% of total Australian lamb production and 92% of total Australian mutton production (DAWR, ABS).
- The value of total lamb exports in 2016-17 was A\$1.94 billion and the value of mutton exports was A\$720 million (ABS/GTA).
- Australian live sheep exports were valued at A\$234 million in 2016-17 (ABS).

Australia's place in the world:

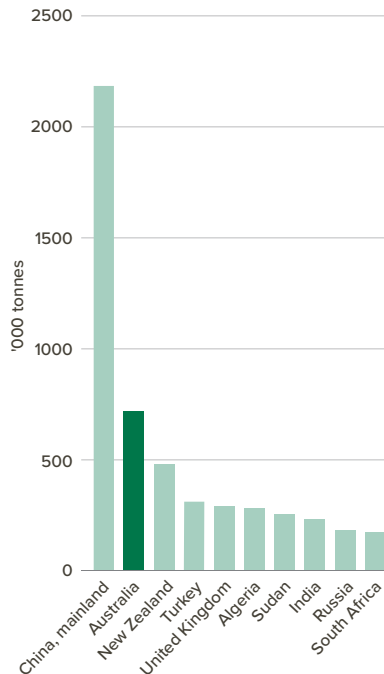
- Australia produced approximately 8% of the world's lamb and mutton supply in 2014 (FAO).
- Australia is the largest exporter of sheepmeat in the world (FAO 2013).
- Australia is the world's third largest live sheep exporter (FAO 2013).

Top ten world lamb and mutton exporters



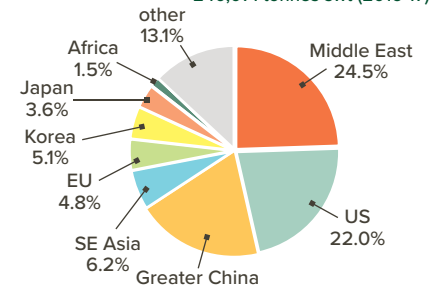
* calculations include intra EU trade
Source: FAO latest available 2013 data

Top ten lamb and mutton producing countries



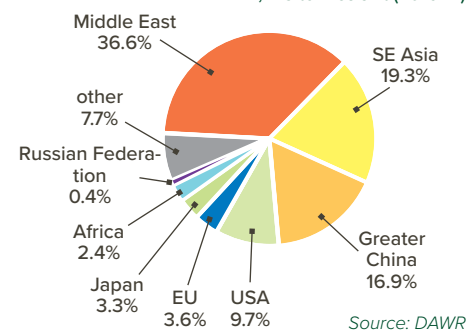
Source: FAO latest available 2014 data

Australian lamb exports
240,071 tonnes swt (2016-17)



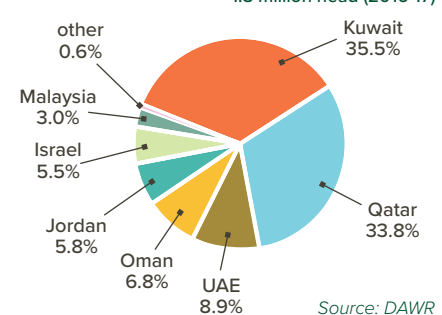
Source: DAWR

Australian mutton exports
122,475 tonnes swt (2016-17)



Source: DAWR

Australian live sheep exports
1.8 million head (2016-17)



Source: DAWR