

fast facts 2009

Australia's beef industry

Australia is one of the world's most efficient producers of cattle and the world's second largest exporter of beef. The off-farm meat value of the Australian beef industry is \$12.1 billion (consumer expenditure plus export value).

Herd facts and figures:

- 61,925 properties with cattle (ABS June 2008 final estimates).
- 27.3 million cattle and calves (ABS June 2008 final estimates).
- 13.5 million beef cows and heifers (ABS June 2008 final estimates).
- The beef industry accounts for 49% of all farms with agricultural activity.
- The total area operated by farms with beef cattle is around 332 million hectares, or 75% of all agricultural area and 43% of Australia's land mass.

People in the industry:

- The beef industry employs approximately 121,000 workers at the farm, processing and retail levels.

How much is produced?

- In 2008-09, Australia produced close to 2.1 million tonnes of beef and veal (ABS).
- In 2008-09, 2.0 million grainfed cattle were marketed, 26% of all adult cattle slaughtered.

What is the value of production?

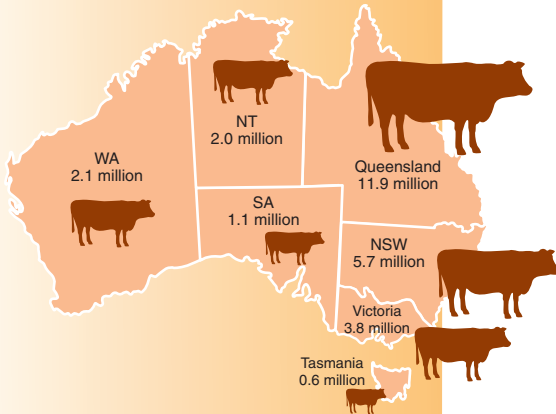
- The gross value of Australian cattle and calf production (including live cattle exports) is approximately \$8 billion (ABARE 2008-09).
- Cattle contributed 18% of the total farm value of \$45 billion in 2008-09.
- The direct contribution of beef and live cattle to gross domestic product is approximately 1%.

Domestic value and consumption:

- Domestic expenditure on beef is estimated at \$6.4 billion (carcase weight – MLA 2008-09 estimate).
- Australians eat around 32.5kg per person yearly (carcase weight – MLA 2008-09 estimate).
- Around 81% of Australian fresh meat buyers purchase beef and veal (Roy Morgan Brand Planner 2008-09).
- In volume terms beef is the second most popular fresh meat consumed through the foodservice industry after chicken (Penfold Research).

National cattle numbers

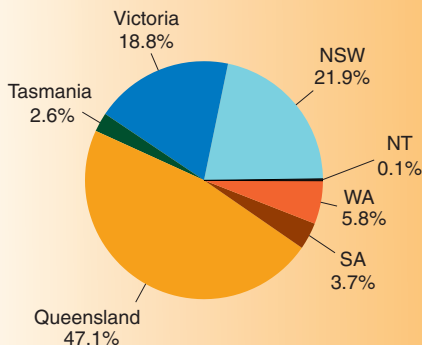
as at June 2008.
27.3 million head



Source: ABS (final 2008)

Australian beef and veal production

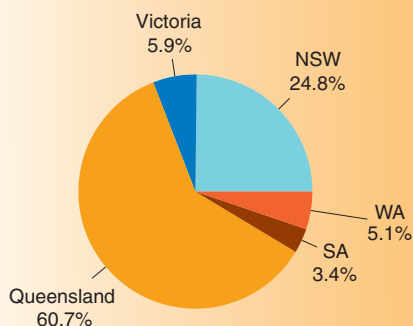
2.1 million tonnes cwt (2008-09)



Source: ABS

Australian lotfed cattle marketings

2.3 million head (2008-09)

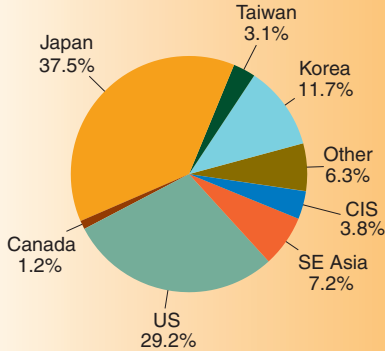


Source: ALFA/MLA

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Australian beef exports

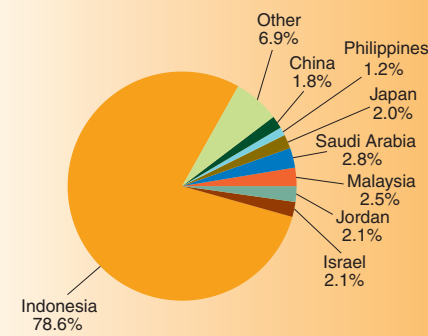
967,729 tonnes swt (2008-09)



Source: DAFF

Australian live cattle exports

893,158 head (2008-09)



Source: ABS

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Australia's beef industry

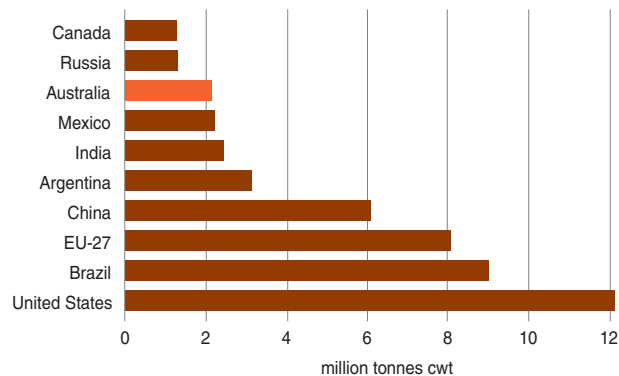
Export value and volume:

- In 2008-09, Australia exported 67% of its total beef and veal production to over 100 countries (DAFF/ABS).
- The value of total beef exports in 2008-09 was \$5 billion (ABS).
- Australian live cattle exports were valued at \$652 million in 2008-09 (ABS).
- The beef industry (including live cattle) contributes 17% to total Australian farm exports, ranking it the most valuable farm export in 2008-09.

Australia's place in the world:

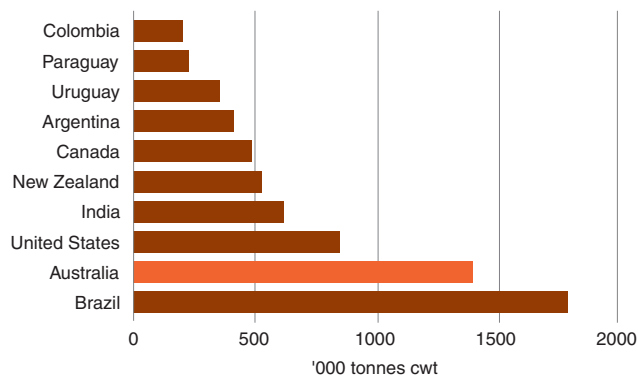
- Australia has 2.8% of the world cattle inventory, with India, Brazil and China taking the top three places.
- Australia produces 4% of the world's beef supply, and is the second largest beef exporter in the world.

Top ten beef producing countries



Source: USDA 2008

Top ten world beef exporters



Source: USDA 2008