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).
- 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).

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.

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).

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).
- 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).

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1Domestic 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.
Fast Facts 2017

Australia’s beef industry

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).

Top ten world beef exporters* (2016)

- USA
- China
- Japan
- Korea
- Taiwan
- Indonesia
- Middle East

Top ten beef producing countries* (2016)

- Indonesia
- Vietnam
- Bangladesh
- United States
- China
- Brazil
- Pakistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Beef Exports 2016-17 (tonnes swt)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DAWR

* includes buffalo meat

Top ten beef producing countries* (2016)

- Indonesia
- Vietnam
- Bangladesh
- United States
- China
- Brazil
- Pakistan

Source: DAWR

* includes buffalo meat

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