

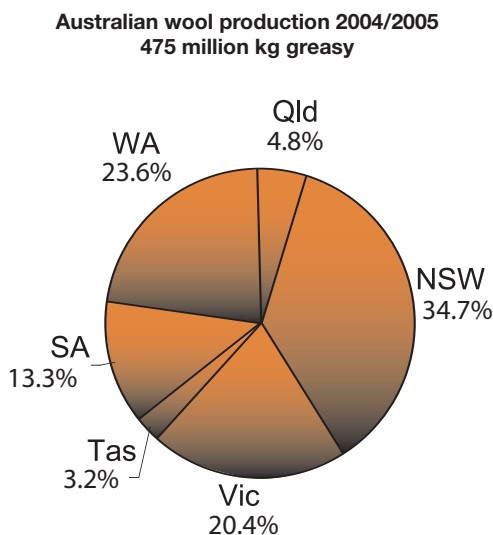
woolfacts

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Australia's wool industry

Australia is the world's largest producer of wool

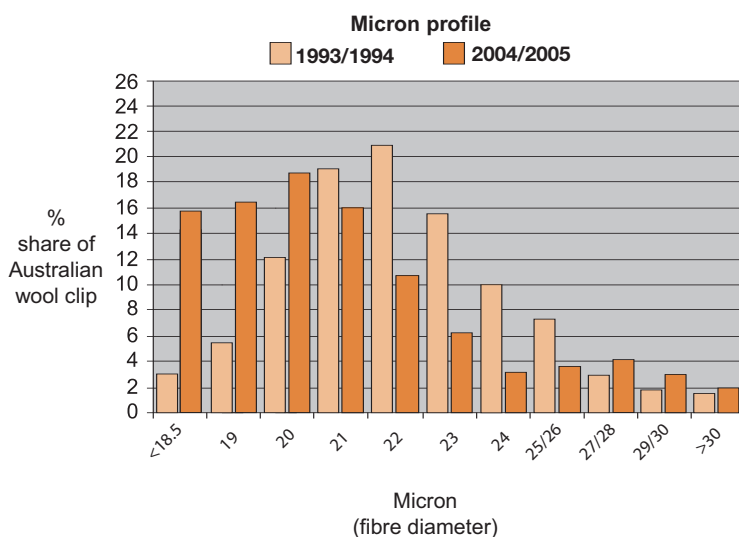
Australian wool production



Did you know...

- In 2004/2005 there were 107 million sheep shorn in Australia producing 475 million kg of greasy wool.
- It is expected that the amount of wool produced in 2005/2006 will fall by 1.7% to 467 million kg of greasy wool from 107 million sheep shorn.
- The Australian flock was composed of 84.6% Merino, 11.3% crossbred, 4.1% other breeds at 30 June 2003.
- The wheat-sheep zone of Australia contains around 55% of the Australian sheep flock, the high rainfall zone contains around 33% and the pastoral zone contains around 12%.
- At 30 June 2003, 73% of the total wool produced in Australia is produced by less than 40% of wool producing farms.

Australian wool fibre

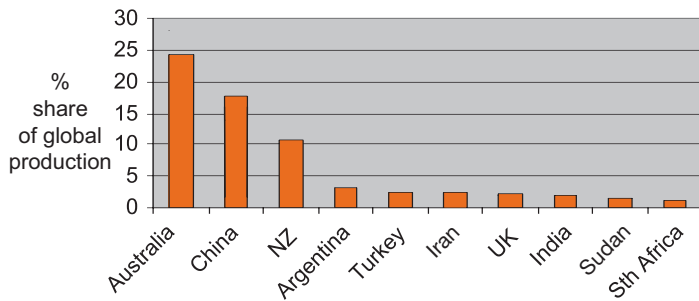


Did you know...

- There has been a significant change in the fibre diameter (micron) profile of the Australian clip. In 1993/1994, only 8.5% of the wool clip was 19 micron or finer. Eleven years later, 32.4% of the clip was 19 micron or finer.
- Wool fibres are mostly made of protein with a small amount of fat, calcium and sodium.
- As it grows from the sheep's skin, wool naturally groups into staples which each contain many thousands of fibres.
- After shearing, wool is classed into five main categories: fleece, pieces, bellies, crutchings and locks.
- The most important characteristics of wool in determining its greasy value are fibre diameter, staple strength, staple length, vegetable matter, colour and yield.

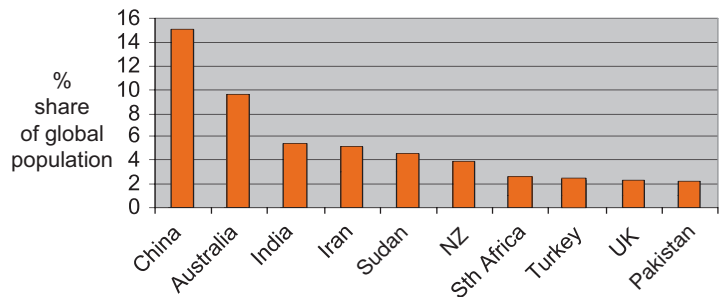
Top ten wool producing countries

2004/2005



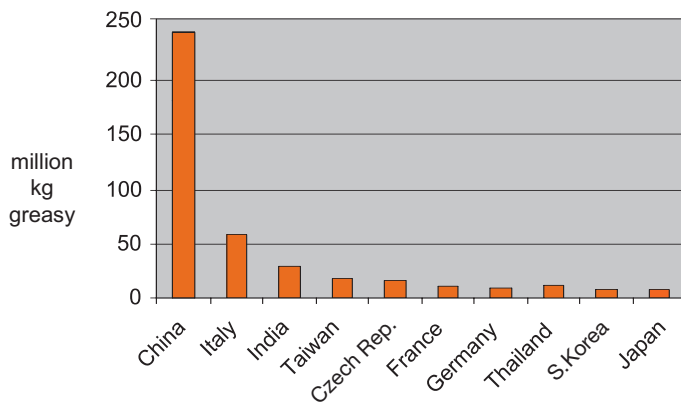
Top ten sheep population

2004



Top ten export destinations

2004/2005



Wool textiles

Did you know...

- Australian wool accounted for 51% of the total used in global wool apparel in 2004.
- In 2004, wool accounted for 2.1% of total world fibre use.
- Casual wear is the largest clothing sector accounting for 70% of the total apparel market.
- Young adults, who dominate global discretionary apparel expenditure, are influenced more by price and performance rather than the textile fibre used.
- Worsted fabrics are made with longer fibres that produce a surface that's smooth to touch. Woollens are made with shorter fibres that stand up from the surface and give the fabric a hairy touch.
- Wool insulates against heat and cold, is healthy, water repellent, fire resistant, naturally elastic, wears longer, is versatile, resists static, insulates against noise, resists dirt, is easy to sew, is comfortable and dyes beautifully.

Did you know...

- Australia is the world's largest producer of wool, producing 24% of the world's greasy wool in 2004/2005.
- While Australia produces more wool than any other country, China has the largest sheep population. Australia has the second largest sheep population.
- Australia exports wool to 52 countries. China is the biggest purchaser of Australian wool, with exports to China valued at \$1.3 billion in 2004/2005.
- In 2004/2005, wool accounted for 2.5% of Australia's total commodity (agricultural/mining) exports, and 8.3% of Australia's agricultural exports ranking fourth behind beef, wheat and wine.
- Wool exports were valued at \$2.5 billion in 2004/2005.

For more information

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Sources: The Woolmark Company, AWTA Ltd, Australian Wool Industries Secretariat, Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee, ABARE

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