



MEDIA RELEASE

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Numbers on feed remain steady

Australia's latest feedlot survey results, published by the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), show numbers of cattle on feed remaining steady at 1,258,377 head in the September quarter.

ALFA's President, Barb Madden, said the national numbers on feed remained relatively stable in most states.

'Increased numbers on feed in the larger lot feeding states of NSW and QLD balanced out the lower numbers in Victoria and seasonal reduction in Western Australia,' Mrs Madden said.

Numbers on feed in QLD, NSW and SA rose by 2.1%, 2.9% and 1.3% respectively, while Victoria and WA numbers dropped 4.9%, and 41.9% across the quarter.

'Historically high numbers on feed over the quarter reflect continued strong demand for grain fed beef but also serve as a reminder of the role the feedlot system plays when conditions become less favourable in the paddock,' Mrs Madden said.

'We have seen strong placement of grain fed beef in our key export markets of Japan, Korea and China occurred during the last quarter and it's pleasing to see continued demand for our product in these markets despite cost-of-living pressures globally.

'Increased feeder cattle availability has been driven partly by drying conditions, particularly in northern NSW and central QLD. No one likes to see conditions dry off, especially given the amazing run of good seasons we have enjoyed. Feedlots have been able to absorb some of this turnoff and it's a reminder of the role we can play in evening out the impact of climate variation for the supply chain.' said Mrs Madden.

National capacity increased by 1.4% to 1.58 million head. Utilisation rates remained steady at 80%.

Source: Feedlot Capacity figures are provided by AUS-MEAT Limited (AUS-MEAT). AUS-MEAT owns and administers the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) on behalf of ALFA and the feedlot sector. Actual Feedlot Capacity figures are reported under the NFAS.

MLA's Global Supply Analyst, Tim Jackson, said the September quarter saw increases in grain fed exports across all major overseas markets.

'Grain fed beef exports are at an all-time high in 2023, with exports reaching over 85,000 tonnes in the September quarter, and over 234,000 tonnes year-to-date.

'The top three markets supported this record export year. After a slight easing in the second quarter, Japan and South Korea markets recovered, increasing by 3% and 10% respectively. Exports to China maintained growth for the third quarter in a row to 22,998 tonnes,' Mr Jackson said.

Looking at cattle supply, Mr Jackson noted that saleyards saw increased availability of feeder cattle paired with eased national feeder steer indicator prices, which has been the case across the board as producers see to offload livestock supply.

'Supply through saleyards was up 7% on last quarter, reaching 80,397 head. A 23% increase on yardings year-on-year. The NLRS feeder steer indicator dropped 46 cents on last quarter, experiencing a 42% downturn year-on-year.'

Mr Jackson also noted that the Darling Downs wheat prices continued to climb in the September quarter, growing by 8% to \$439/tonne.

'This third consecutive increase in wheat prices continues to put pressure on overall ration costs and cost of gain and is somewhat dampening the impact of reduced feeder prices for lot feeders.' Mr Jackson said.

ENDS.

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NUMBERS ON FEED

Quarter	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-23	347,199	55,737	774,052	50,984	30,405	1,258,377
Jun-23	337,524	58,613	758,080	50,318	52,297	1,256,832
Sep-22	305,554	45,135	626,125	38,836	40,406	1,056,056

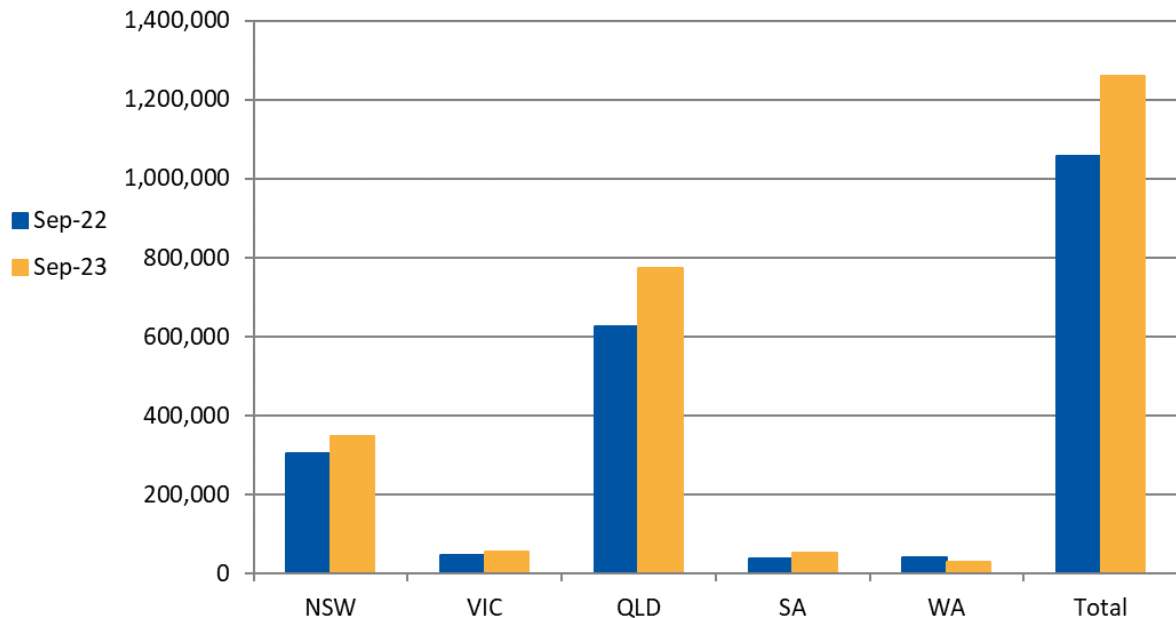
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Quarter	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-23	163,580	28,390	358,827	28,044	39,176	618,017
Jun-23	165,279	55,788	408,826	24,154	34,497	688,544
Sep-22	168,254	43,724	434,298	31,193	36,454	713,923

CAPACITY

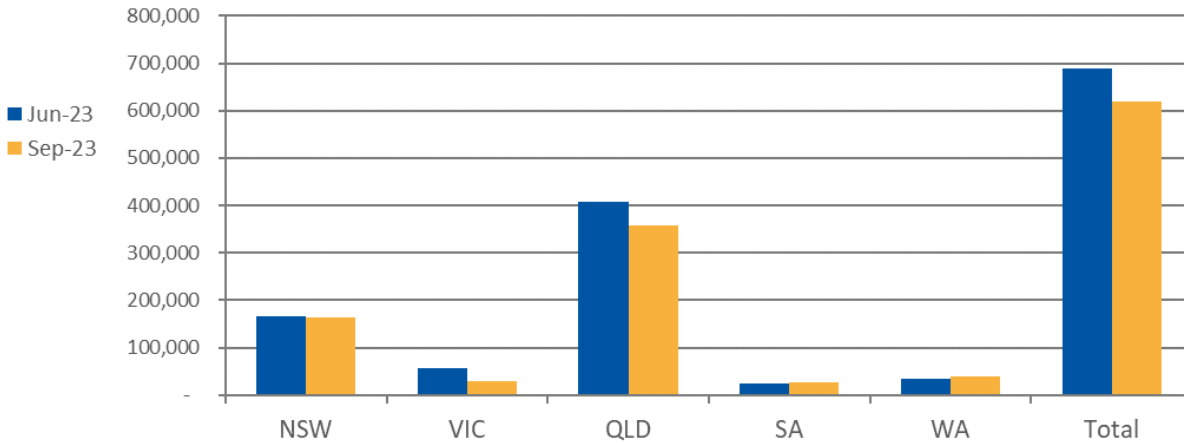
Quarter	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-23	460,633	82,392	878,705	64,940	90,188	1,576,858
Jun-23	447,393	82,392	869,485	64,440	91,917	1,555,627
Sep-22	442,617	78,892	829,167	69,094	91,526	1,511,296

NUMBERS ON FEED YoY

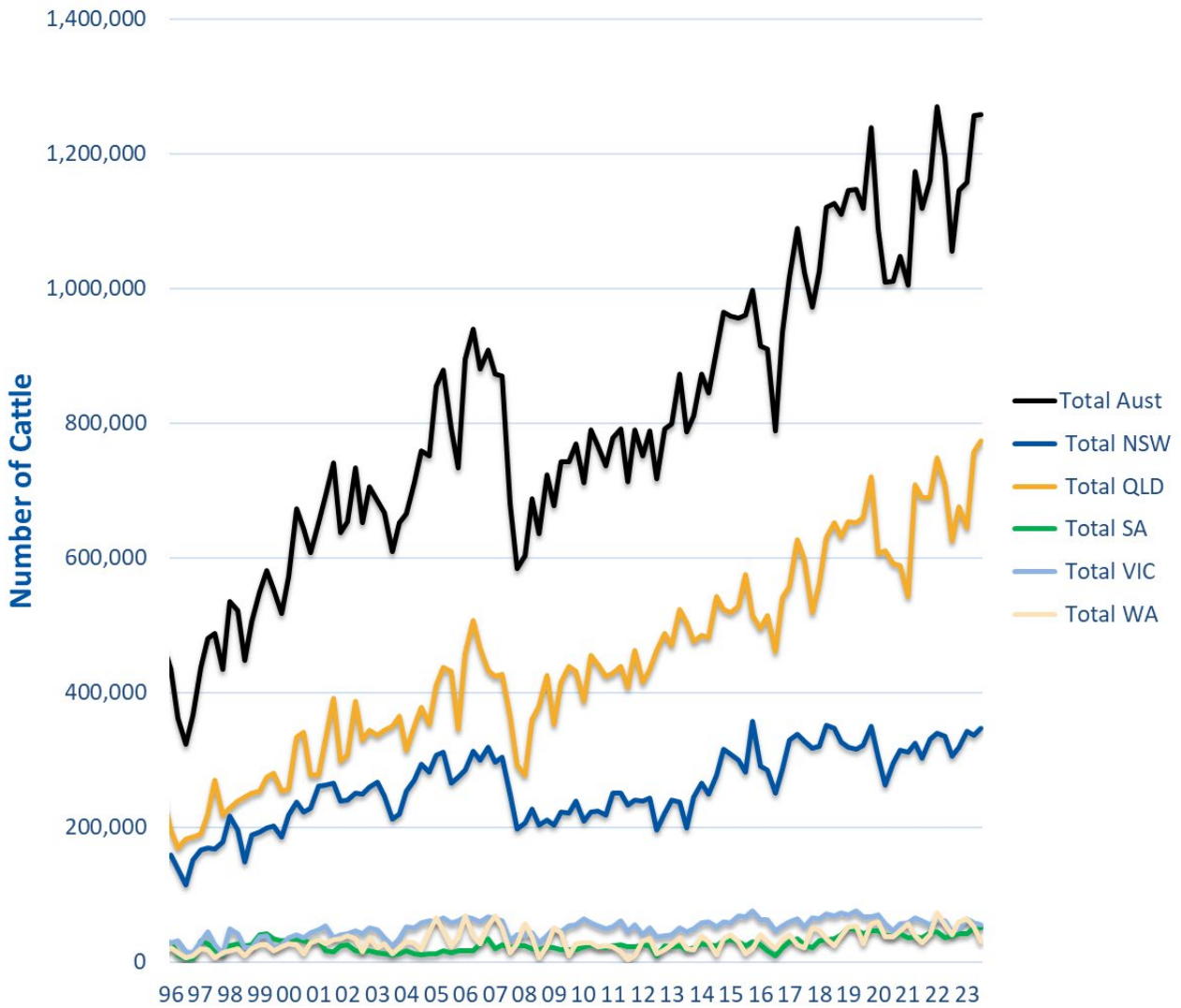


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QUARTERLY TURNOFF



CATTLE NUMBERS ON FEED - HISTORIC



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	Numbers on Feed Sep 23	Numbers on Feed Jun 23	Numbers on Feed Sep 22
New South Wales			
Less than 500 head	1,126	788	791
500 - 1000 head	8,893	10,516	9,865
1001 - 10,000 head	103,907	117,481	100,659
over 10,000 head	233,273	208,739	194,239
State Total	347,199	337,524	305,554
Queensland			
Less than 500 head	9,263	7,051	6,768
500 - 1000 head	18,850	15,067	14,396
1001 - 10,000 head	190,966	173,001	143,291
over 10,000 head	554,973	562,961	461,670
State Total	774,052	758,080	626,125
Victoria			
Less than 500 head	0	0	0
500 - 1000 head	3,224	4,148	5,225
1001 - 10,000 head	18,387	25,447	11,942
over 10,000 head	34,126	29,018	27,968
State Total	55,737	58,613	45,135
South Australia			
Less than 500 head	1,016	1,158	1,016
500 - 1000 head	1,218	235	1,697
1001 - 10,000 head	23,750	28,925	19,141
over 10,000 head	25,000	20,000	16,982
State Total	50,984	50,318	38,836
Western Australia			
Less than 500 head	0	1,467	0
500 - 1000 head	3,180	3,317	2,438
1001 - 10,000 head	12,701	32,800	25,468
over 10,000 head	14,524	14,713	12,500
State Total	30,405	52,297	40,406
Australia			
Less than 500 head	11,405	10,464	8,575
500 - 1000 head	35,365	33,283	33,621
1001 - 10,000 head	349,711	377,654	300,501
over 10,000 head	861,896	835,431	713,359
Total	1,258,377	1,256,832	1,056,056

Note: Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this document may not add up to the totals.