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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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LIVESTOCK STATISTICS - AUSTRALIA

31ST MARCH, 1960

Preliminary details of the total number of principal livestock in Australia as at 31st March, 1960 are shown below. The figures are based on data obtained by the Statisticians in each State from the annual collection of Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying statistics taken in March of each year. It is expected that further particulars of livestock numbers classified according to age, sex etc., will be published within the next two weeks.

The main features of the movement in livestock numbers to March, 1960 were as follows:-

Sheep. The number of sheep in Australia at March 1960, at 155,158,000 is a record and exceeds the previous highest figure of 152,685,000 recorded in 1959 by 2,473,000 (1.6 per cent.). Apart from the slight decline in 1958, due largely to unfavourable seasonal conditions, sheep numbers have shown a steady upward movement since 1947.

Dairy Cattle. The number of dairy cattle which had fallen in each of the two preceding years rose by 31,000 (0.6 per cent.) to 4,877,000 at March, 1960.

Beef Cattle. Beef cattle numbers also rose after declining in each of the two previous years. They rose by 2.0 per cent. from 11,411,000 at March, 1959 to 11,635,000 at March, 1960.

Pigs. The number of pigs at March, 1960 was recorded at 1,424,000. This represents an increase of 135,000 (10.5 per cent.) on numbers at March, 1959 and is the highest recorded since 1946.

Total of each class of livestock are shown below.

NUMBERS OF PRINCIPAL LIVESTOCK : AUSTRALIA

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Classification	At 31st March -					Percentage increase 1960 on 1959
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	
Sheep	139,124	149,802	149,315	152,685	155,158	1.6
Cattle - Dairy	5,059	5,118	4,994	4,846	4,877	0.6
Beef	11,398	12,139	11,898	11,411	11,635	2.0
Pigs	1,166	1,325	1,423	1,289	1,424	10.5

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