

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS - AUSTRALIA

31st March, 1956

Preliminary estimates of the numbers of principal livestock in Australia as at 31st March, 1956 are shown below. These estimates are based on preliminary data obtained by the Government Statisticians of each State from the Annual Census of Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying activities taken in March of this year, and will be revised when the complete results of the Census are available. Final particulars of livestock numbers classified according to age and sex, etc. will be published as soon as they are available.

The main features of the movement in livestock numbers to March, 1956 were as follows:-

Sheep: Continuing an upward trend, the number of sheep in Australia at 31st March, 1956 is estimated at 139.0 million, which represents an increase of 8.2 million, or 6.3 per cent. on the number at March, 1955. This is the highest number ever recorded, the previous highest being at March, 1955. The number of lambs marked was 37 million in 1955-56, compared with 33 million in 1954-55.

Dairy Cattle: The estimated number of dairy cattle in March, 1956, viz. 5,008,000, was 122,000 or 2.5 per cent. more than in March, 1955 and is 19,000 more than in 1943 when total dairy cattle numbers were first recorded separately.

Beef Cattle: Beef cattle numbers increased to 11,450,000 in March, 1956, compared with 10,950,000 in March, 1955. This increase was a continuation of the general upward trend recorded since March, 1947 (except for a slight reversal in 1952) when beef cattle numbers were 8,835,000.

Pigs: Pig numbers in March, 1956 are estimated at 1,170,000, a decrease of 126,000 (9.7 per cent.) from March, 1955.

Totals of each class of livestock are shown in the table below.

NUMBERS OF PRINCIPAL LIVESTOCK : AUSTRALIA

('000)

Classification	Beginning of 1939	at 31st March -					Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) on	
		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 (a)	1955	1956 on 1955
		Sheep	111,058	117,646	123,072	126,944	130,849	139,036
Cattle - Dairy	12,862	4,566	4,746	4,830	4,886	5,008	(+) 28.0	(+) 2.5
Beef		10,327	10,501	10,771	10,950	11,450		(+) 4.6
Pigs	1,156	1,022	993	1,197	1,296	1,170	(-) 9.7	

(a) Preliminary estimates.

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