

Cattle on feed remains high despite tight supply

Cattle on feed numbers remain above 1 million despite a 54,559 drop in the July to September 2021 quarter to 1,119,093 head, according to the latest results of the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) survey.

All states recorded a reduction of cattle on feed, compared to the June 2021 quarter.

Queensland decreased by 18,328 head, or 2.6% to 690,229 head, New South Wales decreased by 22,346 head, or 6.9% to 302,369 head and Victoria decreased by 3,693 head, or 5.7% to 61,334 head.

South Australia recorded a modest decrease in cattle numbers on feed, decreasing by 676 head, or 1.8% to 36,327 head.

The largest percentage decrease in cattle numbers on feed was recorded by Western Australia, decreasing by 9,516 head, or 24.8%, to 28,834 head.

Despite the numbers on feed falling on a quarter-by-quarter basis, there were 108,773 more cattle on feed nationally than there were in the September 2020 quarter.

ALFA President, Barb Madden, said it was pleasing to see the total number of cattle on feed remaining well above the 1 million mark and above year-on-year levels.

"Feedlots are operating at a utilisation rate above 75%. This reinforces that demand for grain fed beef remains steady despite herd rebuilding activity and an environment of tight cattle supply. National utilisation is 7% higher than September 2020 levels, demonstrating confidence in the production system in the face of continued tightening of supply," Mrs Madden said.

"Turnoff of grain fed cattle for the quarter broke 700,000, reaching 708,371 – the highest level since March 2020. The high turn-off of grain fed cattle emphasises the importance of the feedlot sector in assisting brand owners continue to supply high-quality Australian beef."

Steve Bignell, MLA Market Information Manager, said lot feeders continued to receive strong demand for finished cattle.

"The Queensland 100-day grain fed steer over-the-hook (OTH) indicator hit a new quarterly record in the September quarter, averaging 694¢/kg carcass weight (cwt).

"There are 10.8% more cattle on feed than there were at the same time last year, with Queensland and Victoria experiencing growth of 17% and 31% respectively.

"The industry is in a great position - OTH prices are at record levels, numbers on feed up for the year, and international demand remains strong" Mr Bignell said.

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NUMBERS ON FEED

Quarter	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-21	302,369	61,334	690,229	36,327	28,834	1,119,093
Jun-21	324,715	65,027	708,557	37,003	38,350	1,173,652
Sep-20	295,752	46,963	591,664	38,003	37,938	1,010,320

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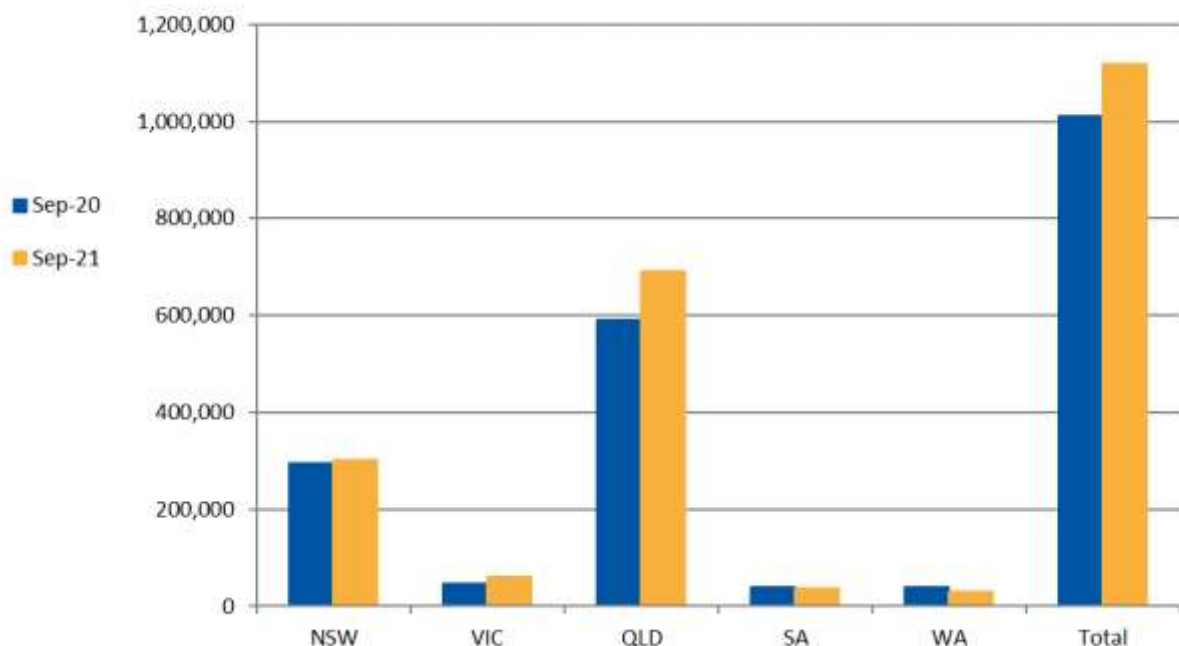
Quarter	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-21	185,405	44,960	410,750	26,974	40,282	708,371
Jun-21	171,612	46,600	397,429	28,712	30,949	675,302
Sep-20	152,377	41,066	413,908	27,901	31,570	666,821

CAPACITY

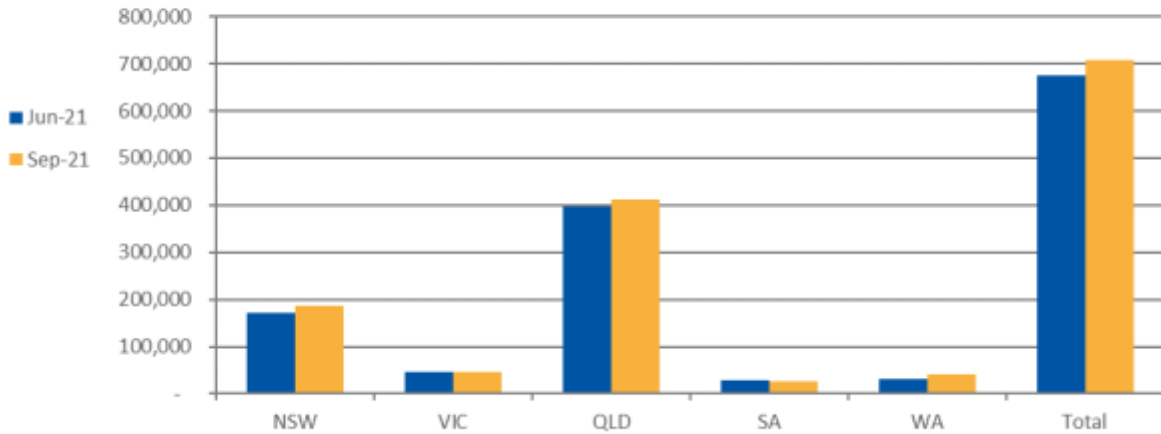
Quarter	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-21	414,263	78,892	827,270	53,814	73,477	1,447,716
Jun-21	412,274	78,892	829,628	53,814	73,477	1,448,085
Sep-20	411,538	79,392	831,179	53,614	73,477	1,449,200

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.

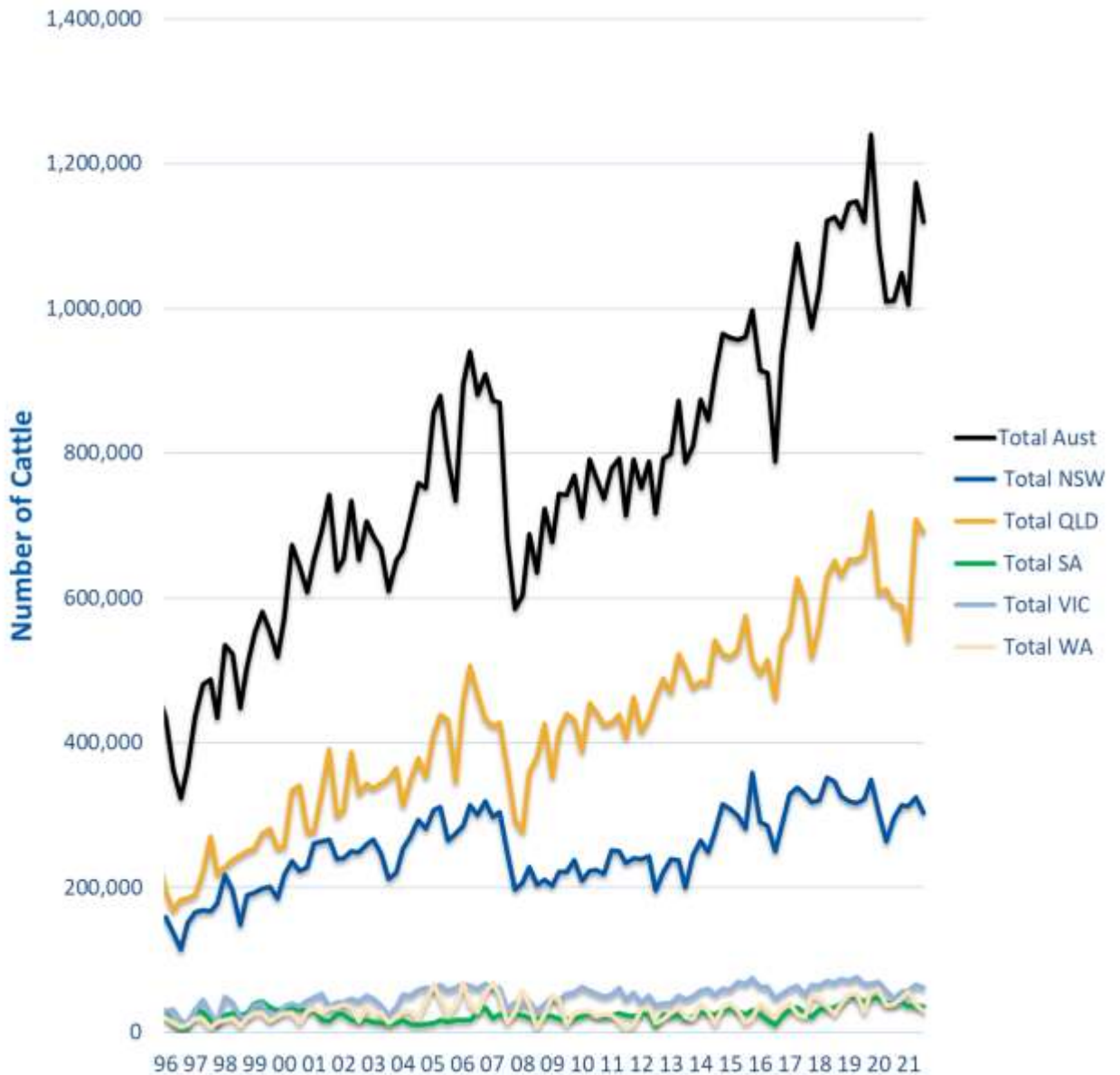
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CATTLE NUMBERS ON FEED - HISTORIC



	Numbers on Feed Sep 21	Numbers on Feed Jun 21	Numbers on Feed Sep 20
New South Wales			
Less than 500 head	520	743	743
500 -1000 head	4,688	8,452	6,828
1001 - 10,000 head	101,972	111,882	105,016
over 10,000 head	195,189	203,638	183,165
State Total	302,369	324,715	295,752
Queensland			
Less than 500 head	4,197	7,556	8,191
500 -1000 head	20,615	17,688	16,194
1001 - 10,000 head	160,532	182,950	158,686
over 10,000 head	504,885	500,363	408,593
State Total	690,229	708,557	591,664
Victoria			
Less than 500 head	0	0	0
500 -1000 head	4,139	4,307	3,266
1001 - 10,000 head	19,687	25,934	19,191
over 10,000 head	37,508	34,786	24,506
State Total	61,334	65,027	46,963
South Australia			
Less than 500 head	789	842	969
500 -1000 head	3,936	4,606	1,828
1001 - 10,000 head	16,602	17,855	18,306
over 10,000 head	15,000	13,700	16,900
State Total	36,327	37,003	38,003
Western Australia			
Less than 500 head	0	1,388	0
500 -1000 head	2,103	3,272	3,803
1001 - 10,000 head	26,731	33,690	34,135
over 10,000 head	0	0	0
State Total	28,834	38,350	37,938
Australia			
Less than 500 head	5,506	10,529	9,903
500 -1000 head	35,481	38,325	31,918
1001 - 10,000 head	325,524	372,311	335,335
over 10,000 head	752,582	752,487	633,164
Total	1,119,093	1,173,652	1,010,320

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