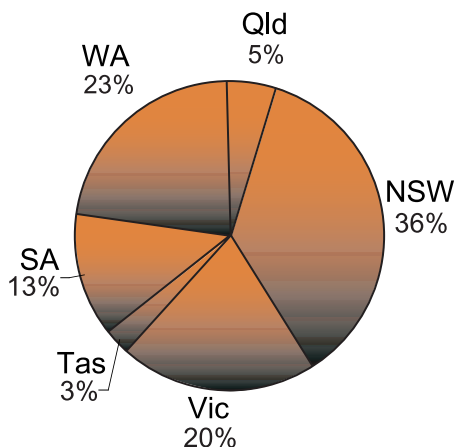


## Australia's wool industry

Australia is the world's largest producer of wool

### Australian wool production

Australian wool production 2002/2003  
499 million kg greasy



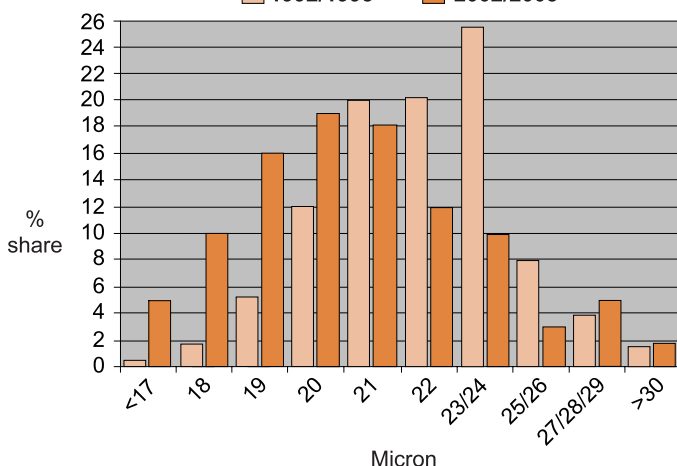
### Did you know...

- In 2002/2003 there were 117.5 million sheep shorn in Australia producing 499 million kg of greasy wool.
- It is expected that the amount of wool produced in 2003/2004 will fall by 3.8% to 480 million kg of greasy wool from 106.1 million sheep shorn. However, production is expected to recover in 2004/2005 to 500 million kg from 108.9 million sheep shorn.
- The Australian flock was composed of 85.1% Merino, 10.4% crossbred, 4.5% other breeds at 30 June 2002.
- 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%.
- More than 75% of the total wool produced in Australia is produced by just 40% of wool producing farms.

### Australian wool fibre

Micron Profile

1992/1993 2002/2003

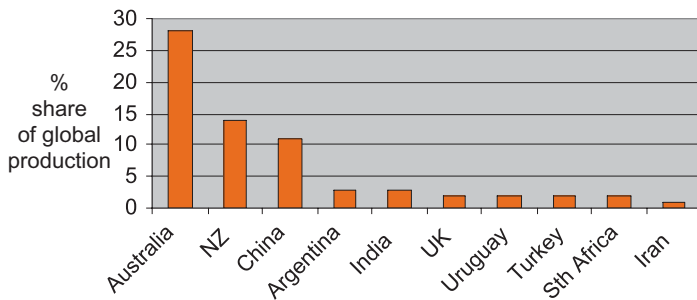


### Did you know...

- There has been a significant change in the fibre diameter (micron) profile of the Australian clip. In 1993/1994, only 8.8% of the wool clip was finer than 19 micron. Ten years later, 30% of the clip is now classified as fine wool.
- 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.

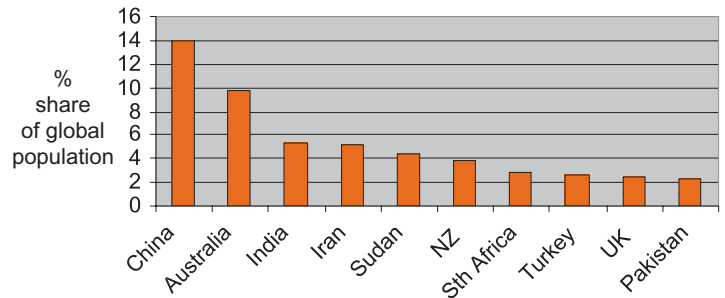
## Top ten wool producing countries

2002/2003



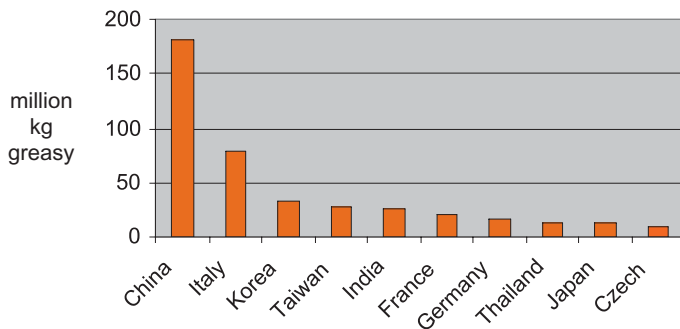
## Top ten sheep population

2002/2003



## Top ten export destinations

2002/2003



## Wool textiles

### Did you know...

- Australian wool accounted for 48.5% of the global total used in global wool apparel in 2002/2003.
- Wool accounts for 2.36% of total world fibre use and about 3.5% of apparel fibre (with Australian wool approximately 2.3%) used around the world in 2003.
- Casual leisurewear 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 28% of the world's greasy wool in 2002/2003.
- 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 55 countries. China is the biggest purchaser of Australian wool, with exports to China valued at \$1.3 billion in 2002/2003.
- Wool accounts for 2.4% of Australia's total exports, 4.1% of Australia's primary industry (agricultural/mining) exports, and 13.1% of Australia's agricultural exports in 2002/03, ranking third behind beef and wheat.
- Wool exports were valued at \$3.3 billion in 2002/2003.

### For more information

Call AWI tollfree on 1800 070 099, visit [www.wool.com.au](http://www.wool.com.au) or email: [info@woolinnovation.com.au](mailto:info@woolinnovation.com.au)

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

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