



## Farm structure survey 2013: focus on agricultural labour in England and the United Kingdom

This release presents analyses of agricultural labour data collated as part of the 2013 EU Farm Structure Survey run in June 2013 by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland.

### Key Findings. In England in 2013...

#### Holdings

- ... a third of holdings were aged over 65
- ...16% of holdings were female.
- ...50% of male holdings worked full time on the holding compared to only 25% of female holdings.
- ...The youngest holdings (under 45 years old) worked on mixed livestock farms or specialist pig and poultry farms.
- ...38% of the smallest farms were run by holdings over 65 years old. This number decreased to 23% on the largest farms.

#### Managers

- ...85% of holdings were also the farm manager.
- ...39% of farm managers had formal agricultural training

#### Farm labour

- ... The number of people in the farm labour force is equally split between family and non-family workers. 50% of the family workers were female (this compares to 24% of the non-family workers who were female).

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- ...44% of the male family workers worked full time compared to 20% of female family workers
- ...40% of family workers worked on the smallest farms. This number decreased to 25% on the largest farms.

The datasets containing all the results presented here, also including UK level figures, are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry>

## Introduction

The Farm Structure Survey is a survey conducted across the European Union every three or four years as a sample survey and once every ten years as a census. The latest survey was conducted in 2013. The results are used to assess the agricultural situation across the European Union, to monitor trends in the structure of holdings and to model the impact of external developments or policy proposals.

Defra was responsible for collating data and the provision of the anonymised dataset for the United Kingdom to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. Data was collected by Defra (in England), the Welsh Government (in Wales), the Scottish Government (in Scotland) and the Northern Ireland Executive (in Northern Ireland).

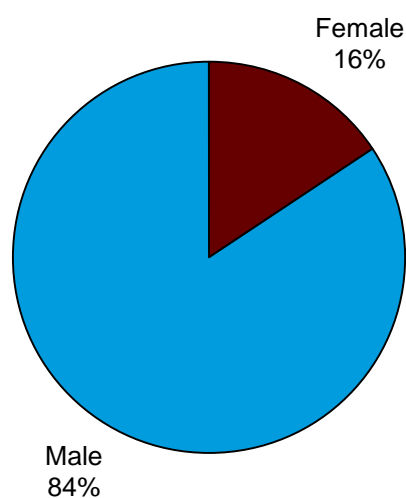
## Ownership of holdings

The Farm Structure Survey categorised the ownership of holdings as being owned by either one person, the 'sole holder', or by limited companies or institutions. If the ownership of the 'sole holder' holding was shared between more than one person, details of one person was recorded as the holder and details of the remaining owners that work on the holding were recorded elsewhere as spouses, family labour or non-family labour. Limited companies and institutions were deemed not to have a holder and details were only recorded for a manager. Ninety-six percent of holdings in England were owned by a 'sole holder' and 4% by limited companies or institutions. In the United Kingdom, 97% of holdings were owned by a 'sole holder' and 3% by limited companies or institutions.

## Holder

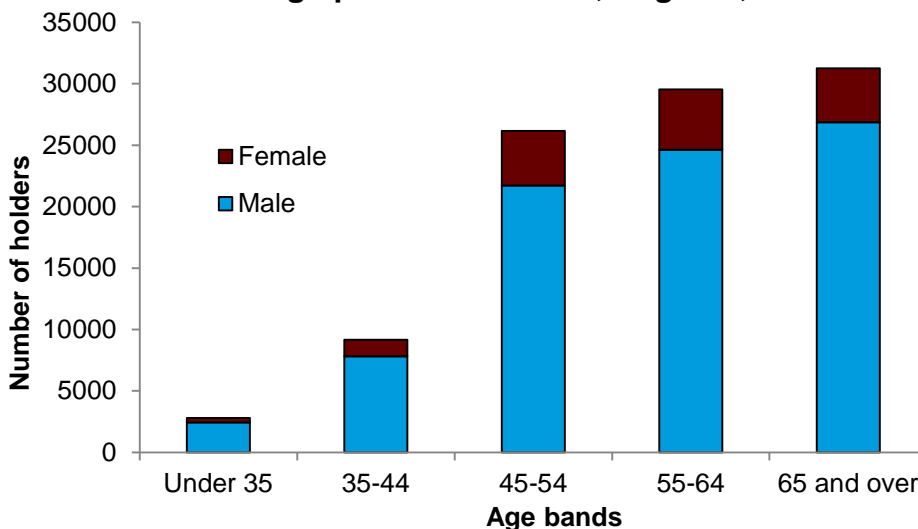
Of the 96% of holdings in England that were owned by 'sole holders', the holders were predominantly male. 84% of holders were men and 16% were women. The proportions were very similar for the United Kingdom with 85% of holders being men and 15% being women.

**Gender of holders, England, 2013**

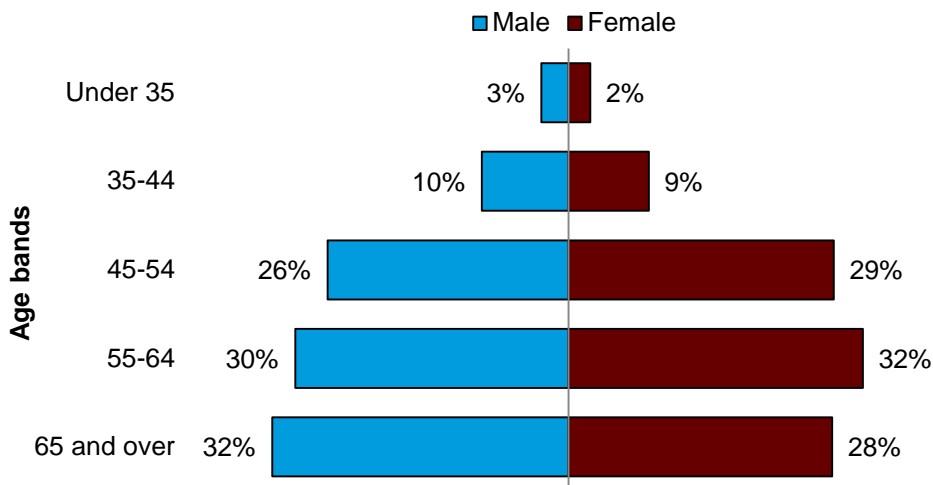


Agriculture typically has an aging workforce. In England and the United Kingdom, around a third of all holders were over the typical retirement age of 65 years while the proportion of young people aged less than 35 years was around 3%. This was broadly true for both men and women in the United Kingdom though in England, there were proportionally more women than men in the 45 to 54 years and 55 to 64 years age bands and fewer women than men aged 65 and over.

**Age profile of holders, England, 2013**

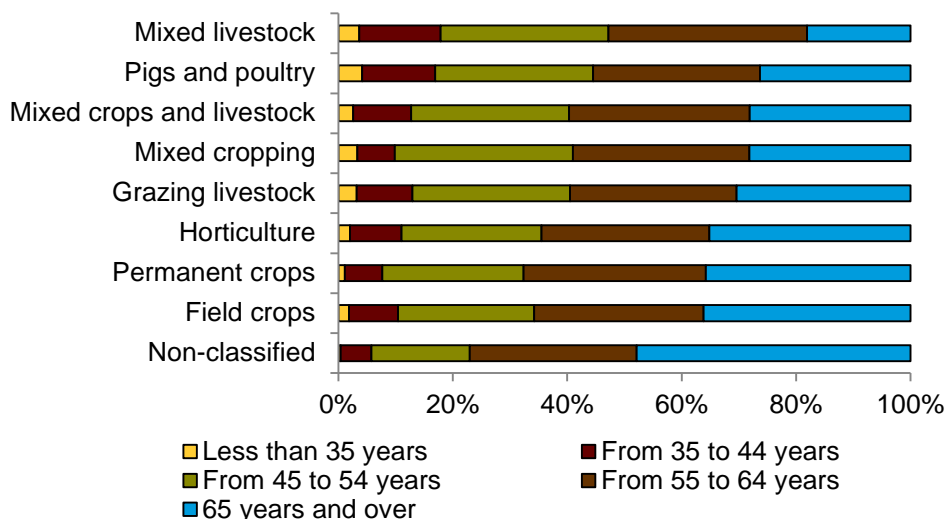


**Proportion of holders by gender, England, 2013**



Classification of farm businesses by type is based on a holding's agricultural output. The holding is allocated to a particular type when the contribution of a crop or livestock type comprises more than two-thirds of total output. Generally, younger holders aged less than 45 were found on mixed livestock farms and pigs and poultry farms while older holders were found on non-classified farm types in both England and the United Kingdom.

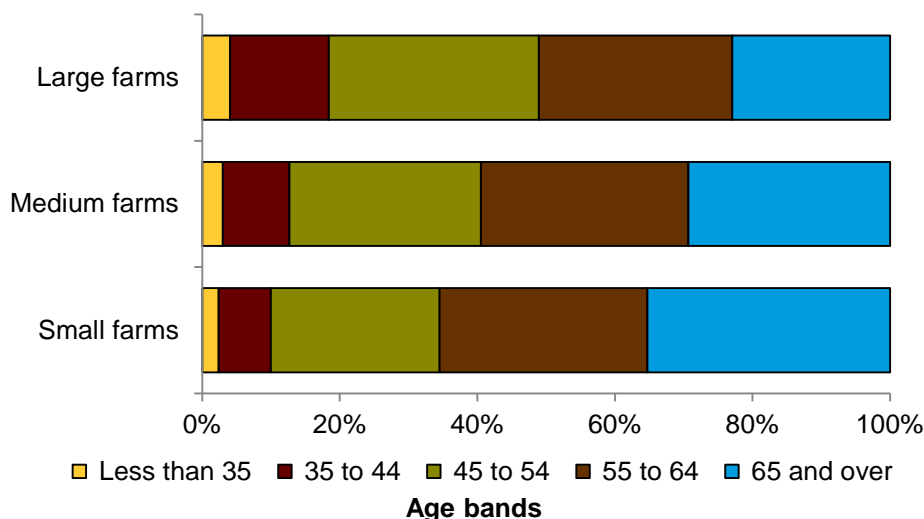
**Age of holders by farm type, England, 2013**



The size of farms is based on the economic value of standard outputs for each enterprise. Standard outputs represent the level of output that could be expected on the average farm under "normal" conditions. In the chart below, small farms were those with standard output of less than 50,000 euros, medium farms were those between 50,000 and 249,999 euros and large farms were those with a standard output of 250,000 euros or more.

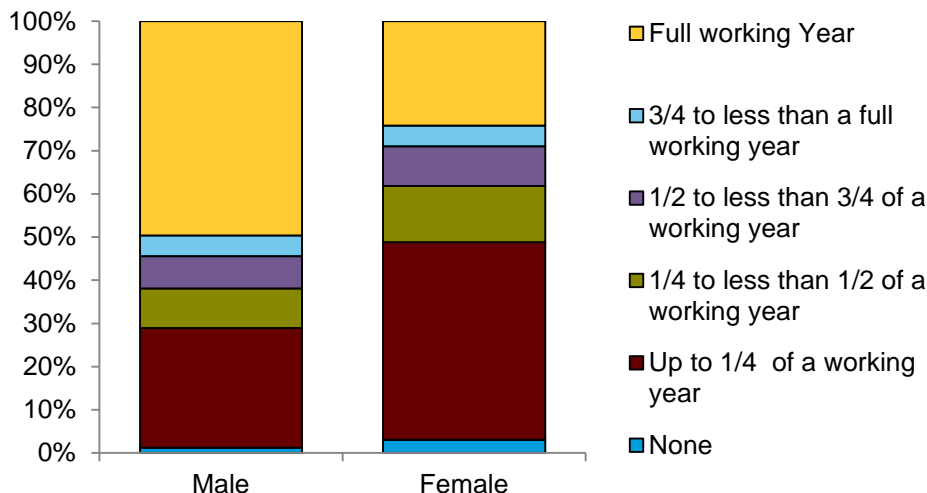
The proportion of holders aged less than 55 increased with the size of the farm. Although they made up only one-third of holders on small farms, this increased to about 40% on medium farms and to about half on large farms. This trend was seen in both England and the United Kingdom.

**Age of holders by farm size, England, 2013**



Part-time working is of considerable importance in agriculture though proportionally more women work part-time than men. In both England and the United Kingdom, about three-quarters of female holders work part-time or not at all compared about half of male farm holders.

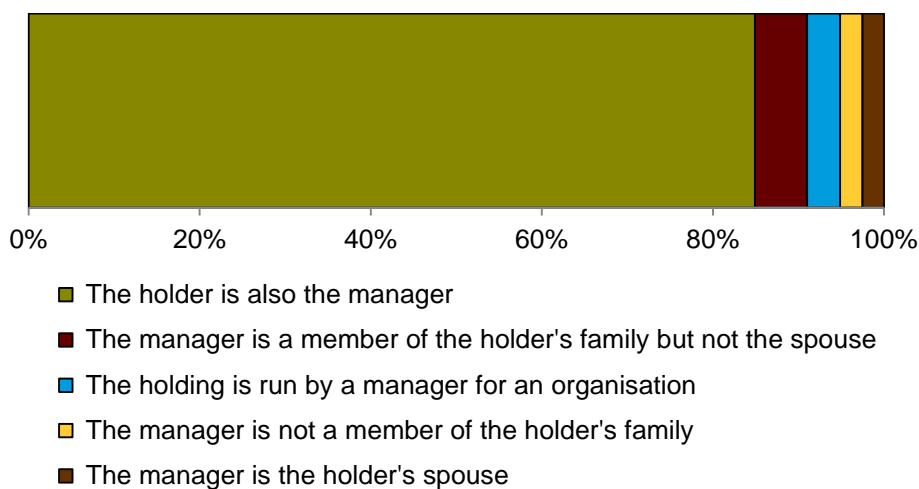
**Working time by gender, England, 2013**



### Managers

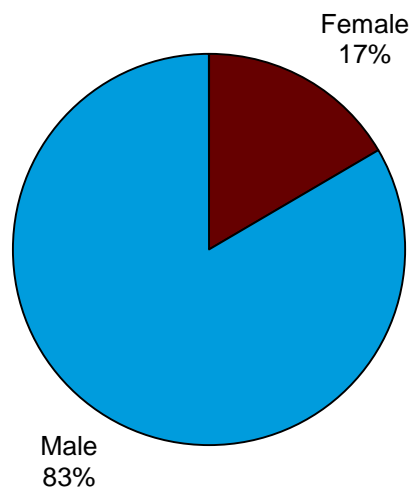
Every holding has a manager although in many cases the holder is also the manager. 85% of all holdings in England in 2013 were managed by the holder, while 3% were managed by the holder's spouse, 6% by another member of the holder's family and 3% by a person unrelated to the holder's family. Four percent of holdings were managed by a manager on behalf of an organisation, i.e. limited companies or institutions.

**Management of holdings, England, 2013**



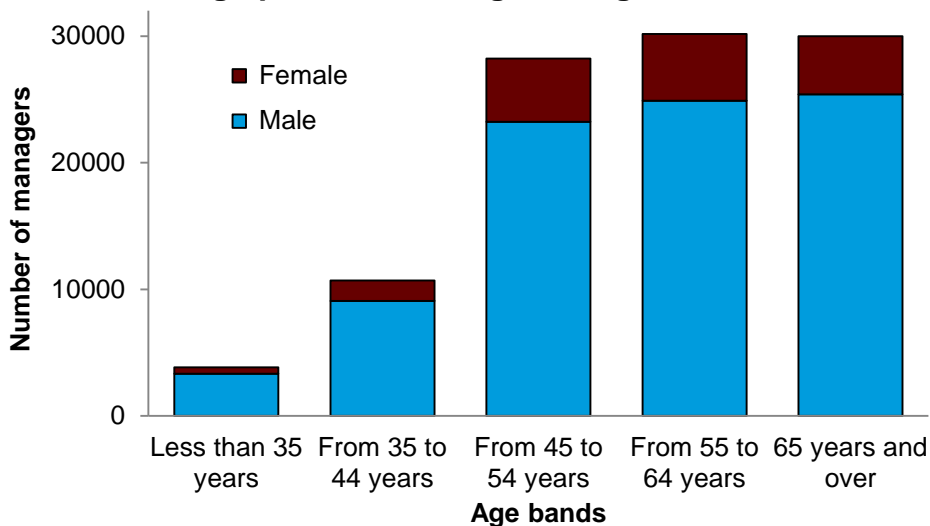
Like holders, managers were predominantly male (83%). The proportions were slightly different for the United Kingdom as a whole with 85% of holders being men.

### Gender of managers, England, 2013

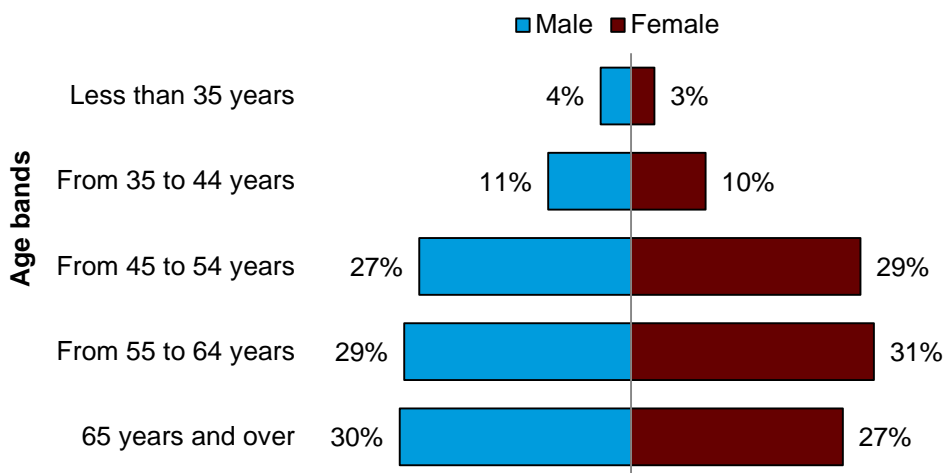


About 30% of all managers in England and in the United Kingdom were over the typical retirement age of 65 years, a slightly smaller proportion than for holders. The proportion of young people aged less than 35 years was around 4%. This was broadly true for both men and women in the United Kingdom though in England, there were proportionally more women than men in the 45 to 54 years and 55 to 64 years age bands and fewer women than men aged 65 and over.

### Age profile of managers, England, 2013

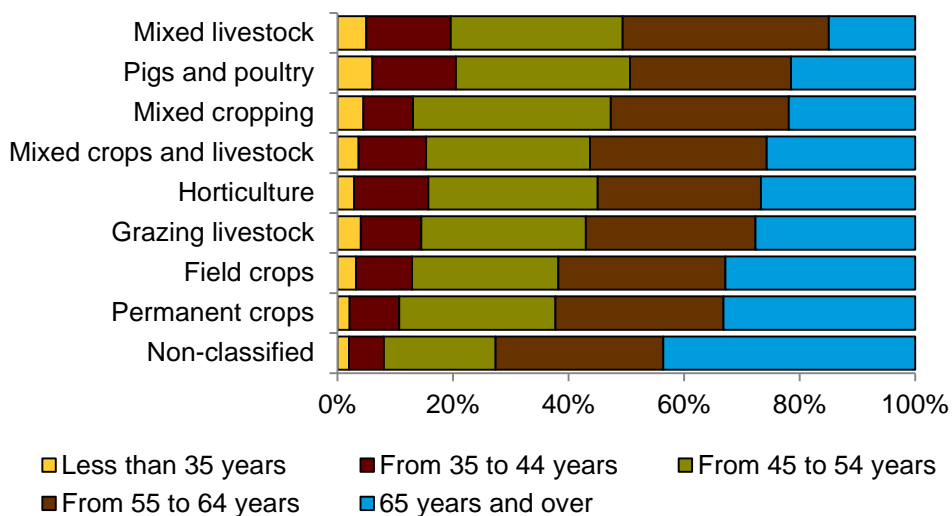


### Proportion of managers by gender, England, 2013



About 45% of managers of non-classified farms were aged 65 years or more in both England and the United Kingdom; only about 16% of managers of mixed livestock farms were aged 65 years or more. Younger managers, aged less than 45 years, were found on mixed livestock farms and pigs and poultry farms.

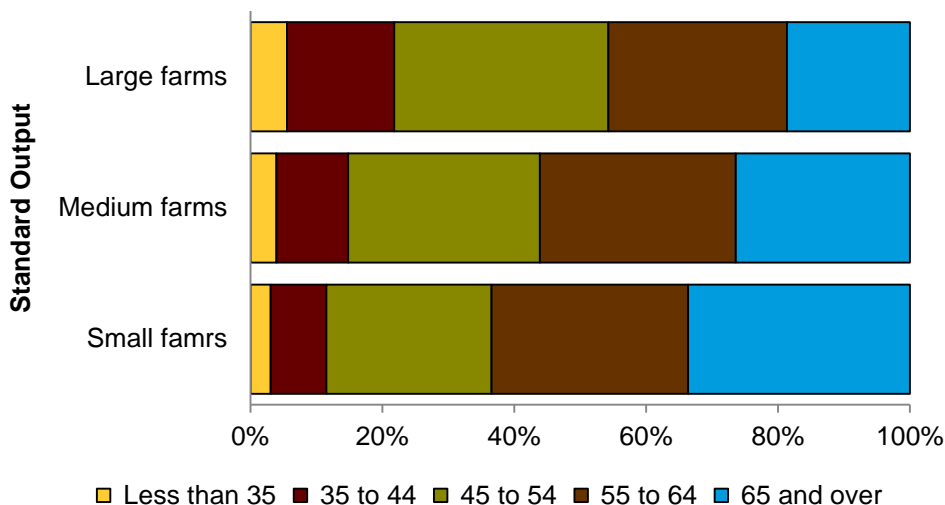
### Age of managers by farm type, England, 2013





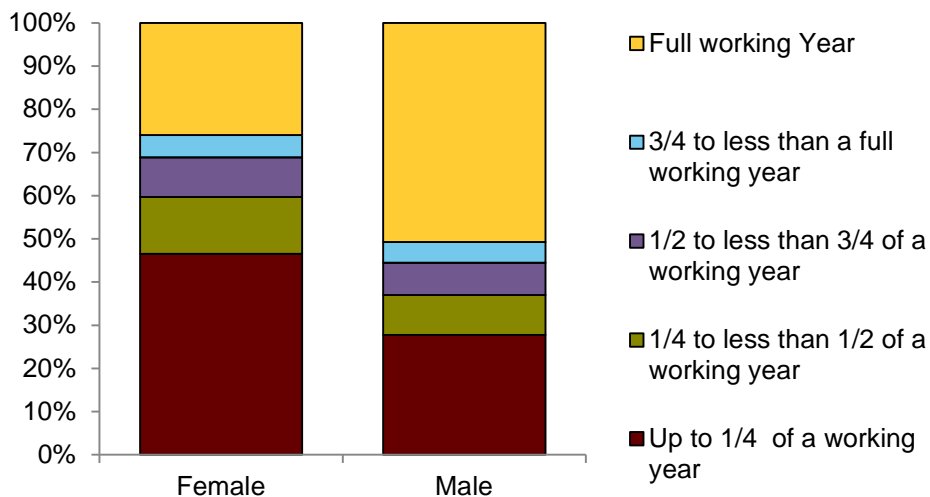
Like holders, the proportion of managers aged less than 55 increased with the size of the farm. They made up 27% of managers on small farms, increasing to about 45% on medium farms and to 55% on large farms. This trend was seen in both England and the United Kingdom.

**Age of managers by farm size , England, 2013**



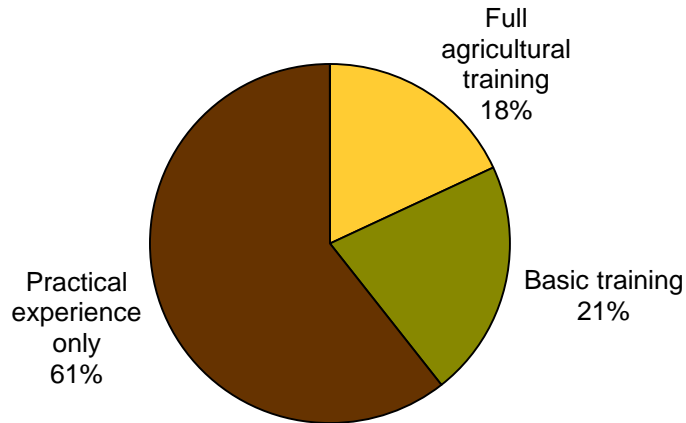
About three-quarters of managers who were women worked part-time compared to about half of holders who were men in both England and the United Kingdom.

**Working time by gender, England, 2013**



Agriculture has traditionally relied on the practical experience of the manager of the holding. In England, 61% of managers did not have any agricultural education but only practical experience in working on the agricultural holding, 21% had basic agricultural training, such as vocational education or has participated in training courses at agricultural college, and 18% had full agricultural training, that is secondary professional education (technical school, college), vocational higher and/or higher education in agriculture. In the United Kingdom, the proportions were 68% with practical experience, 16% with basic agricultural training and 16% with full agricultural training.

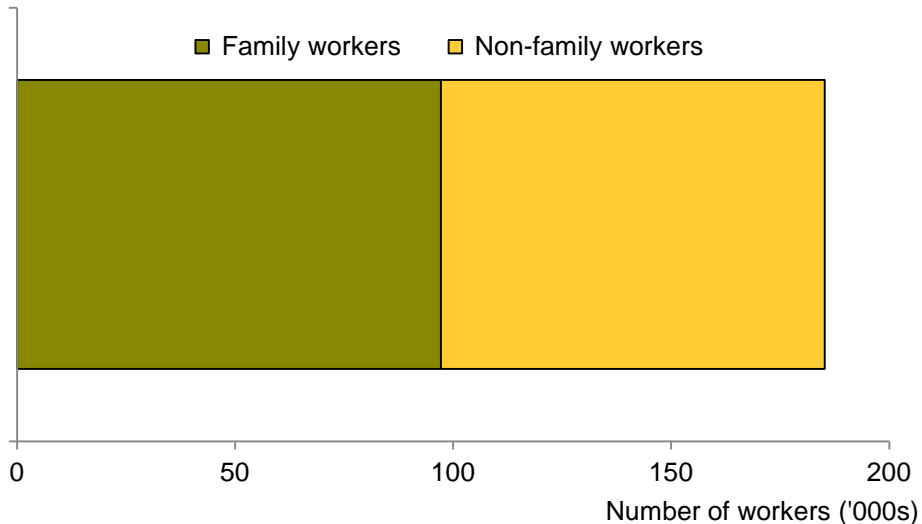
### Agricultural training of the manager, England, 2013



### Family and non-family labour

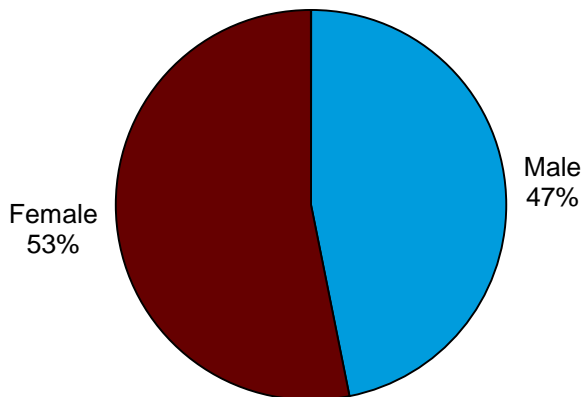
In 2013, there were 185,203 persons working on agricultural holdings in England. Of these, 97,212 or 52% were family members and 87,991 or 48% were non-family workers. In the United Kingdom as a whole, 57% of the workforce were family members and 43% were non-family workers.

### Family and non-family labour, England, 2013



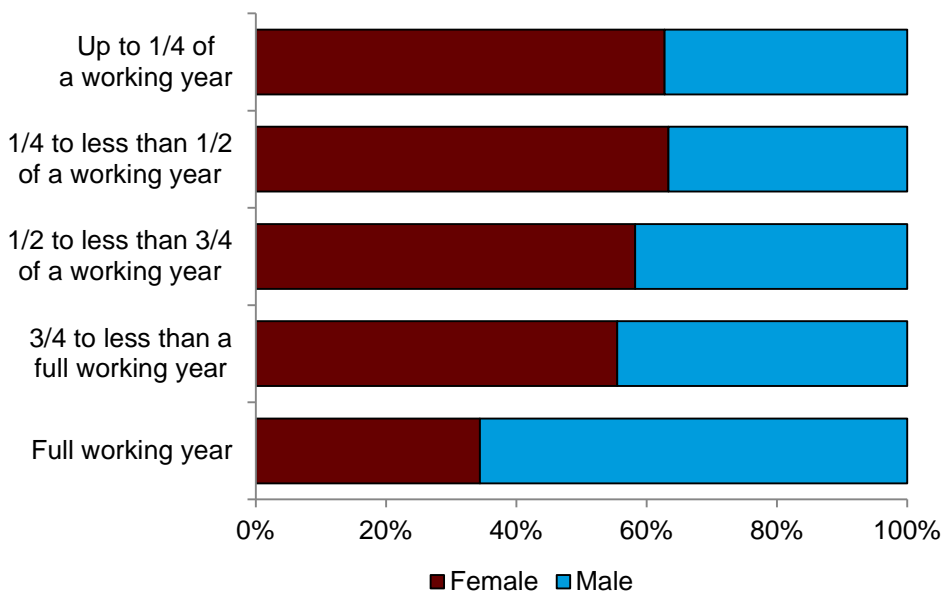
Of the 97,212 persons who were **family labour** in England, just over half was made up of women with men making up the remaining 47%. In the United Kingdom, 51% were women and 49% were men.

**Family labour by gender, England, 2013**



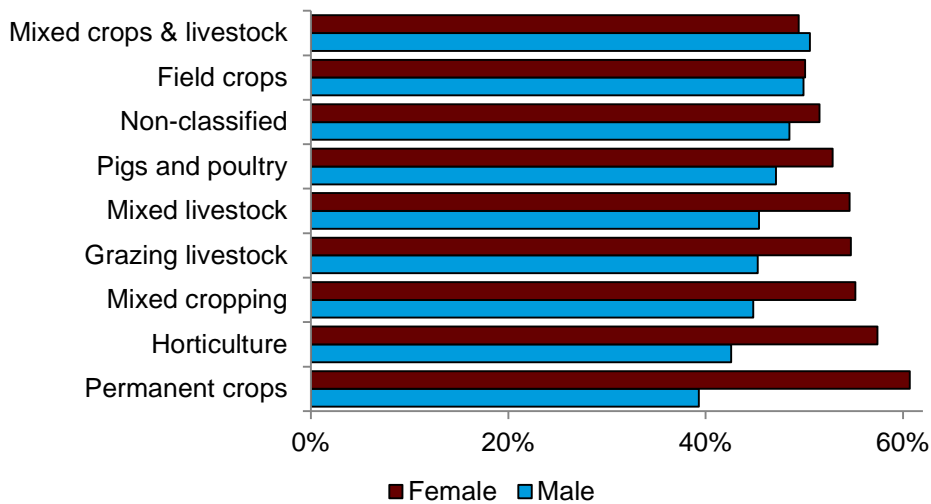
The majority of full-time work in England was carried out by men, with 19,975 working full time compared to 10,485 of women, whilst women worked the most part time hours. A similar pattern was observed for the United Kingdom.

**Family labour working time, England, 2013**

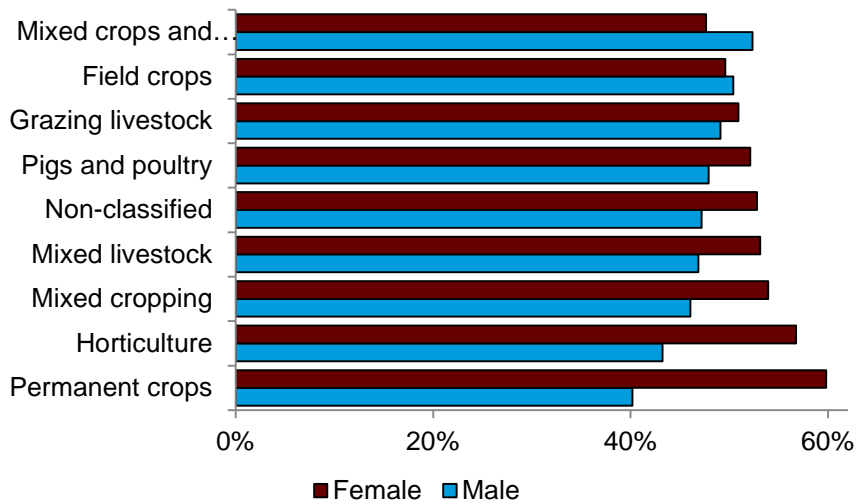


Women made up half or more than half of the family workforce across all farm types in England except on mixed crops and livestock farms where 51% of the family workers were men. About 60% of the family labour force on permanent crops farms were women. The picture was similar in the United Kingdom.

### Family labour by farm type, England, 2013

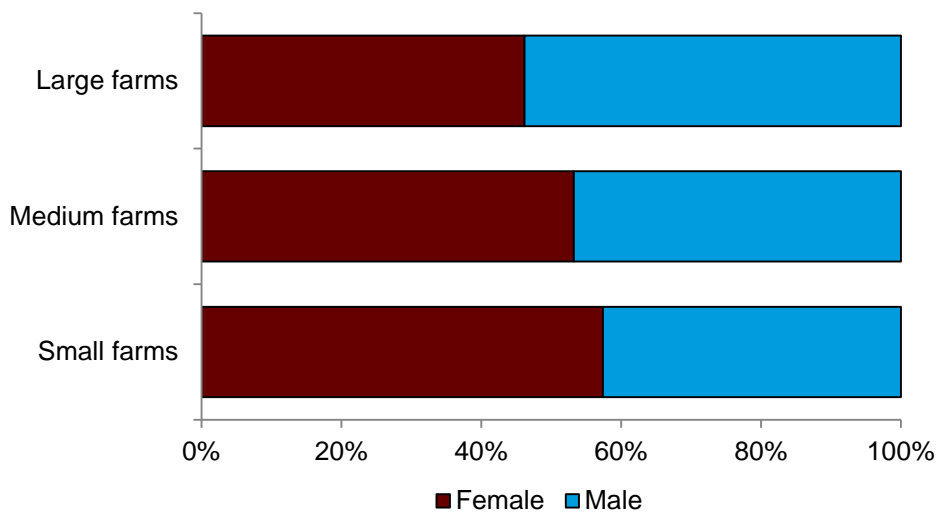


### Family labour by farm type, UK, 2013



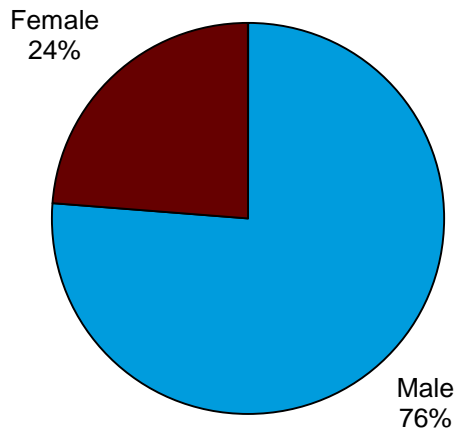
About 40% of the family work force in England worked on the smallest farms and 25% on the largest farms. Fewer women worked on large farms than men and more women than men worked on small farms. For the United Kingdom as well, around 47% of the family work force worked on the smallest farms and 21% on the largest farms.

### Family workers by farm size, England, 2013



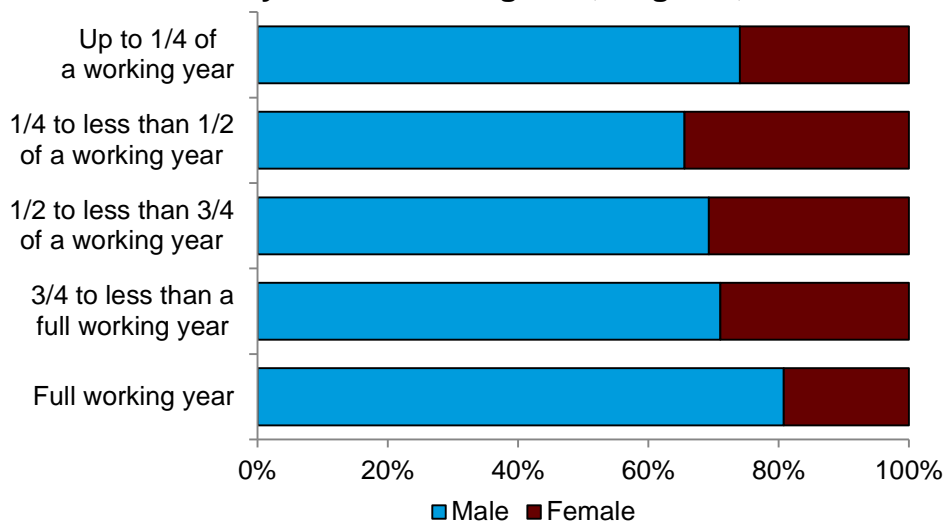
The total **non-family labour force** in England in 2013 was 87,991. Of these, more than three times as many men than women were employed as non-family labour. This is true also for the United Kingdom.

### Non-family labour by gender, England, 2013



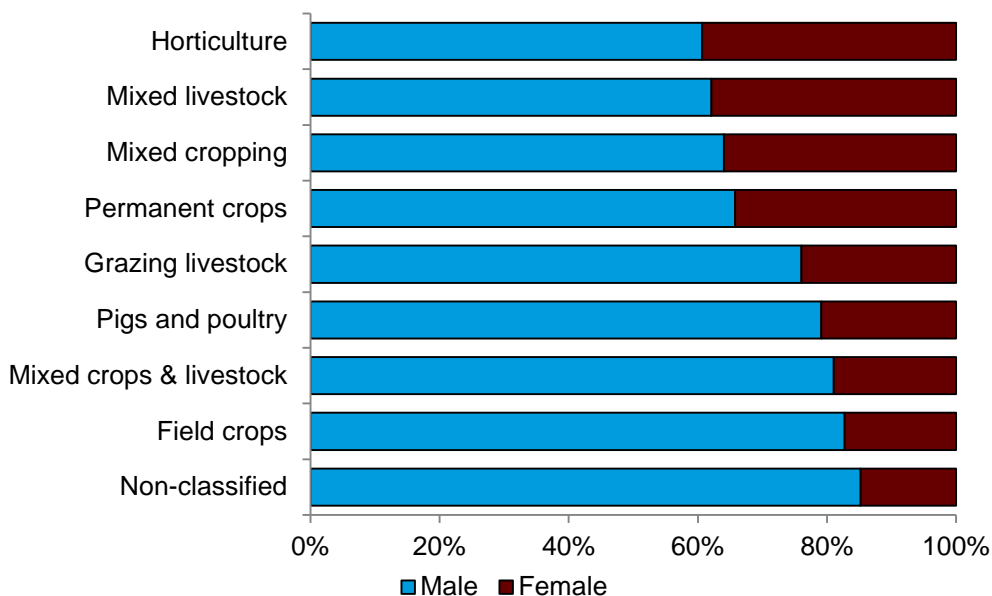
Eighty-one percent of full time work carried out by the non-family workforce in England was carried out by men, a similar figure to the United Kingdom as a whole. The same pattern of part-time and full-time working was observed for the United Kingdom.

### Non-family labour working time, England, 2013



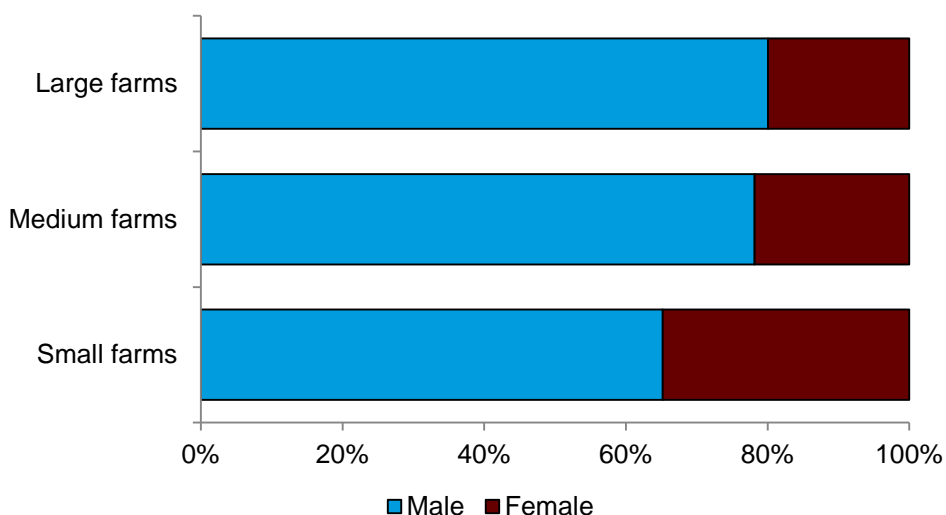
Men made up the majority of workers across all farm types in England. 24,873 men, 37% of the total, worked on field crops farms. The same pattern of labour was observed for the United Kingdom.

### Non-family labour by farm type, England, 2013



Almost 60% of the non-family work force in England were employed on large farms. In the United Kingdom, 66% were employed on large farms. In both England and the United Kingdom, proportionally more women work on small farms than others.

### Non-family labour by farm size, England, 2013



## Methodological notes

The Farm Structure Survey 2013 was led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) which was responsible for collating the Farm Structure Survey data from the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom: Defra in England, the department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Northern Ireland, the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) and the Welsh Government. The majority of data were collected in each country through the regular June survey of agriculture with administrative sources being used for other data.

Further information on the June surveys of agriculture may be found at:

Defra: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-survey-notes-and-guidance>

Scotland: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubFinalResultsJuneCensus>

Northern Ireland: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/statistics/statistical-reports/agricultural-census-ni.htm>

Wales: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/survey-agricultural-horticulture/?tab=previous&lang=en>