

Agricultural facts: Summary

25 April 2024

Section 1: Key statistics

Figure 1.1: A map of England split by region



Source: [Office for National Statistics](#), [Open Geography Portal](#)

Key statistics for England

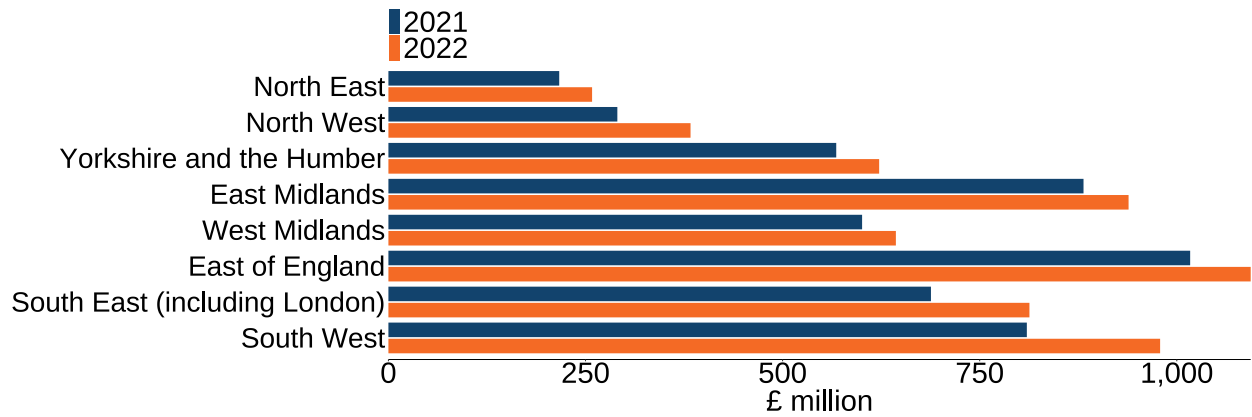
- Total Income from Farming (TIFF)¹ in England in 2022 was £5.7 billion. TIFF increased in all 8 of England's regions with an average increase of 15% between 2021 and 2022 (Figure 1.2). The largest contributor to England's TIFF in 2022 was the East of England (19%) and the smallest contributor was the North East (4.5%).
- Total livestock output was the largest output² in 5 of England's 8 regions while total crop output was the largest in the other 3 regions (Figure 1.3). Direct payments made up between 5.8% (West Midlands) and 13% (North East) of total outputs for the regions.
- The North East had the largest average farm size in 2023 (145 hectares) while the West Midlands had the smallest (67 hectares). The average English farm size was 88 hectares (Table 1.1).
- In England, the predominant farm types in 2023 were grazing livestock (41% of England's holdings) and general cropping (21% of England's holdings) farms. Nevertheless, the prevalence of different farm types can vary considerably across England's regions. For example, 37% of holdings in the East of England were cereal farms while only 4.5% of holdings were cereal farms in the North West (Figure 1.5).
- Across all farm types, average Farm Business Income (FBI)³ in England increased by 12% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and was £96,100 per farm (Table 1.4). The North East had the highest average FBI (£193,600 per farm) while the South West had the lowest (£62,800 per farm).
- In 2023, the South West had the highest proportion of England's total agricultural labour force (22%) and accounted for the largest share of its regular workers (19%) (Table 1.5). However, the South East (including London) region had the most workers per farm (3.6 workers) and the highest proportion of England's casual labour (29%).

¹ Total Income from Farming (TIFF) is the net income to farms once costs have been accounted for, so is calculated as "outputs & subsidies" minus "inputs & costs". [More information on aggregate agricultural accounts can be found on GOV.UK.](#)

² Total output is the gross value of commodities produced without considering production costs or any additional income received through subsidies. [More information on aggregate agricultural accounts can be found on GOV.UK.](#)

³ In simple terms, Farm Business Income (FBI) is the output generated by the farm business minus total farm costs. [More information on Farm Business Income can be found on GOV.UK.](#)

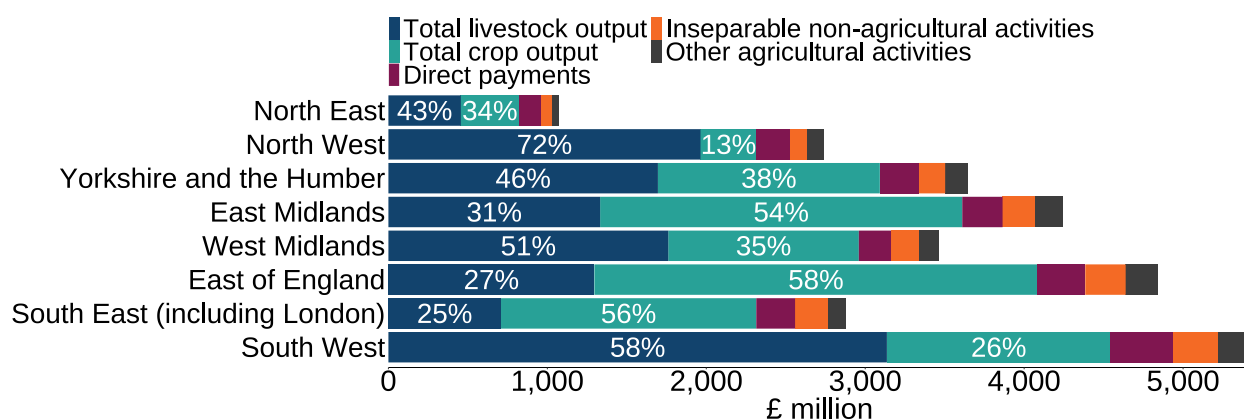
Figure 1.2: Total Income from Farming (TIFF) in 2021 and 2022 (£ million)



Region	2021	2022
North East	217	258
North West	290	383
Yorkshire and the Humber	568	622
East Midlands	882	939
West Midlands	601	644
East of England	1,017	1,094
South East (including London)	688	813
South West	810	979

Source: [Total Income from Farming for the regions of England](#)

Figure 1.3: Outputs and subsidies in 2022 (£ million)



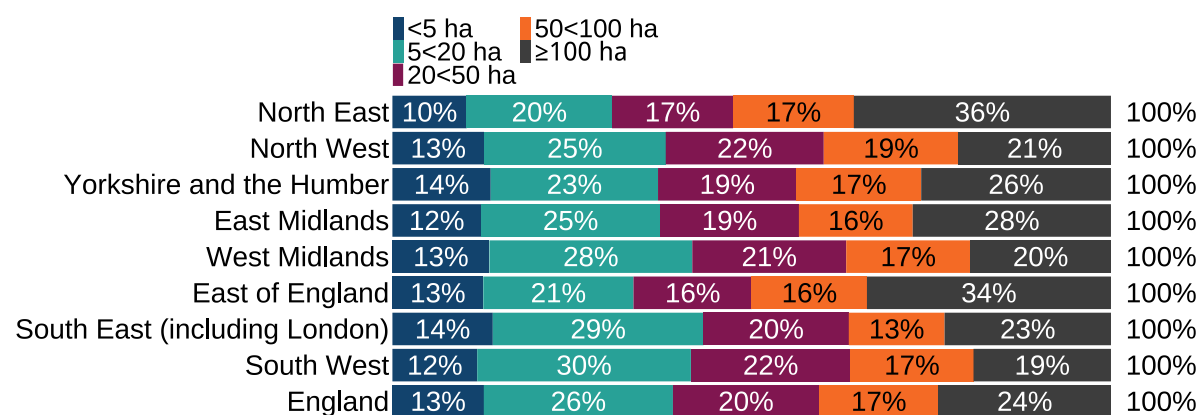
Region	Total livestock output	Total crop output	Direct payments	Inseparable non-agricultural activities	Other agricultural activities
North East	456 (43%)	365 (34%)	138 (13%)	70 (6.5%)	40 (3.7%)
North West	1,964 (72%)	352 (13%)	213 (7.8%)	106 (3.9%)	101 (3.7%)
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,696 (46%)	1,396 (38%)	244 (6.7%)	167 (4.6%)	144 (4.0%)
East Midlands	1,332 (31%)	2,279 (54%)	254 (6.0%)	202 (4.8%)	174 (4.1%)
West Midlands	1,761 (51%)	1,199 (35%)	202 (5.8%)	172 (5.0%)	127 (3.7%)
East of England	1,296 (27%)	2,788 (58%)	300 (6.2%)	254 (5.3%)	205 (4.2%)
South East (including London)	707 (25%)	1,607 (56%)	244 (8.5%)	203 (7.1%)	113 (3.9%)
South West	3,136 (58%)	1,407 (26%)	390 (7.2%)	284 (5.2%)	208 (3.8%)

Source: [Total Income from Farming for the regions of England](#)

Notes:

1. Proportions are respective to the gross output value plus direct payments for each region.
2. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 1.4: Distribution of farms by size in 2023 (percentage of farm holdings)



Region	<5 ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	≥100 ha	Total
North East	10%	20%	17%	17%	36%	100%
North West	13%	25%	22%	19%	21%	100%
Yorkshire and the Humber	14%	23%	19%	17%	26%	100%
East Midlands	12%	25%	19%	16%	28%	100%
West Midlands	13%	28%	21%	17%	20%	100%
East of England	13%	21%	16%	16%	34%	100%
South East (including London)	14%	29%	20%	13%	23%	100%
South West	12%	30%	22%	17%	19%	100%
England	13%	26%	20%	17%	24%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. “ha” means “hectares”
2. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 1.1: Land use in 2023

Region	Total farmed area (thousand hectares)	Average farm size (hectares)	Rented (% of farmed area)	Arable (% of farmed area)	Permanent pasture (% of farmed area)
North East	606	145	40%	32%	46%
North West	941	76	36%	22%	61%
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,125	94	32%	52%	34%
East Midlands	1,172	103	33%	70%	21%
West Midlands	912	67	30%	54%	36%
East of England	1,397	127	28%	79%	12%
South East (including London)	1,099	88	31%	56%	30%
South West	1,746	69	32%	43%	46%
England	8,999	88	32%	53%	34%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. Arable includes arable crops, uncropped arable land and temporary grass.
2. Rented land must be rented for at least one year.

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Table 1.2: Crop area in 2023 as a % of England's total

Region	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Maize	Oilseed rape	Sugar beet	Potatoes	Field veg	Hardy nursery stock	Glasshouse	Orchards	Small fruit
North East	4.0%	4.8%	6.4%	0.2%	6.8%	0.2%	1.4%	1.7%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
North West	2.0%	4.7%	3.5%	6.5%	1.6%	0.8%	6.4%	4.3%	3.2%	13%	0.9%	0.7%
Yorkshire and the Humber	14%	15%	7.3%	6.2%	17%	7.7%	19%	17%	3.7%	12%	0.6%	1.4%
East Midlands	20%	16%	15%	16%	21%	23%	15%	27%	40%	8.9%	1.6%	3.3%
West Midlands	9.7%	7.2%	14%	14%	12%	2.8%	15%	6.6%	9.2%	9.8%	29%	19%
East of England	28%	24%	18%	16%	18%	64%	33%	29%	13%	20%	8.1%	13%
South East (including London)	13%	12%	19%	12%	13%	0.4%	2.9%	7.7%	12%	31%	41%	53%
South West	9.6%	15%	16%	29%	11%	1.5%	7.3%	6.3%	19%	4.6%	19%	8.8%
England	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
2. Further data notes on crops can be found below the relevant tables in the [statistical dataset for England's regional breakdown of the structure of the agricultural industry at June](#).

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Table 1.3: Livestock numbers in 2023 as a % of England's total

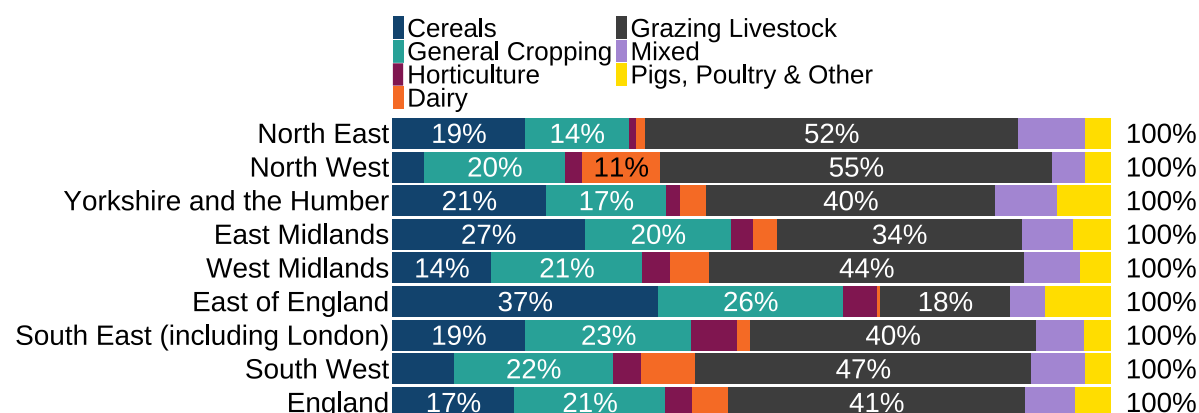
Region	Cattle	Dairy herd	Beef herd	Pigs	Sheep	Poultry	Laying flock	Table chickens	Turkeys	Goats
North East	4.9%	1.2%	11%	3.2%	13%	1.5%	2.7%	1.5%	0.1%	1.5%
North West	18%	26%	12%	2.3%	21%	8.1%	12%	7.8%	5.9%	7.1%
Yorkshire and the Humber	10%	7.1%	12%	40%	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	22%
East Midlands	8.7%	6.2%	11%	9.0%	8.2%	17%	15%	18%	30%	6.7%
West Midlands	13%	15%	11%	4.8%	14%	19%	22%	18%	7.2%	11%
East of England	3.5%	1.3%	6.1%	28%	2.4%	24%	8.9%	27%	39%	5.0%
South East (including London)	7.2%	4.9%	9.8%	4.0%	7.9%	5.2%	11%	2.7%	2.9%	9.8%
South West	34%	39%	27%	8.9%	20%	13%	15%	12%	2.1%	37%
England	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
2. Cattle numbers relate to commercial holdings only.
3. Sheep numbers include lambs

Figure 1.5: Distribution of farms by type in 2023 (percentage of farm holdings)



Region	Cereals	General Cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing Livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
North East	19%	14%	1.0%	1.3%	52%	9.4%	3.5%	100%
North West	4.5%	20%	2.4%	11%	55%	4.5%	3.6%	100%
Yorkshire and the Humber	21%	17%	2.0%	3.5%	40%	8.6%	7.4%	100%
East Midlands	27%	20%	3.0%	3.3%	34%	7.1%	5.2%	100%
West Midlands	14%	21%	3.9%	5.3%	44%	7.8%	4.2%	100%
East of England	37%	26%	4.7%	0.5%	18%	4.9%	9.1%	100%
South East (including London)	19%	23%	6.3%	1.9%	40%	6.8%	3.7%	100%
South West	8.6%	22%	4.0%	7.6%	47%	7.6%	3.6%	100%
England	17%	21%	3.7%	5.0%	41%	7.0%	4.9%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
2. "Other" refers to unclassified farm types.

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Table 1.4: Farm Business Income in 2022/23 (£ per farm)

Region	All farm types	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Specialist pigs	Specialist poultry
North East	193,600 (±119,900)	334,200 (±271,700)	[x]	[x]	[x]	57,200 (±26,500)	192,700 (±109,600)	[x]	[x]
North West	96,600 (±27,400)	123,700 (±83,400)	55,000 (±75,400)	[x]	282,400 (±88,600)	31,100 (±13,000)	33,600 (±49,700)	[x]	146,000 (±204,200)
Yorkshire and the Humber	79,600 (±23,300)	111,500 (±50,500)	170,300 (±55,000)	[x]	197,600 (±68,000)	13,800 (±8,400)	78,300 (±99,900)	117,300 (±60,000)	96,800 (±154,900)
East Midlands	124,400 (±32,000)	153,000 (±57,900)	180,100 (±115,900)	[x]	245,100 (±89,300)	20,300 (±9,000)	52,100 (±32,800)	[x]	[x]
West Midlands	87,100 (±21,100)	106,700 (±46,800)	61,000 (±68,800)	165,200 (±284,400)	186,700 (±58,600)	22,900 (±14,400)	62,900 (±23,400)	104,100 (±46,600)	54,300 (±35,800)
East of England	122,200 (±34,700)	126,900 (±48,300)	177,100 (±88,500)	50,700 (±115,500)	[x]	6,200 (±28,800)	117,700 (±156,400)	109,200 (±87,000)	[x]
South East (including London)	102,700 (±31,300)	179,700 (±76,100)	200,700 (±214,600)	81,700 (±78,300)	233,500 (±90,800)	20,900 (±10,200)	110,900 (±75,700)	[x]	[x]
South West	62,800 (±14,300)	128,400 (±57,700)	28,700 (±32,500)	78,700 (±114,900)	225,200 (±58,000)	21,200 (±6,600)	39,400 (±19,700)	-22,800 (±89,800)	86,900 (±67,200)
England	96,100 (±9,000)	150,400 (±24,700)	125,200 (±35,900)	95,600 (±59,800)	229,200 (±28,200)	22,900 (±4,100)	68,000 (±19,600)	67,900 (±42,300)	105,900 (±51,500)

Source: Defra, Farm Business Survey (regional breakdown not published elsewhere)

Notes:

1. “[x]” means “not available”.
2. The Farm Business Survey year runs from March to February.
3. Excludes farms with less than 25,000 euros of standard output.
4. Values in parentheses indicate the 95% confidence intervals.
5. Values are rounded to the nearest £100.

Table 1.5: Agricultural labour force in 2023 (number of people)

Region	Total labour	Average labour per farm	Total labour as % of England	Regular workers as % of England	Casual workers as % of England
North East	10,123	2.4	3.5%	3.0%	1.5%
North West	32,962	2.7	11%	11%	5.9%
Yorkshire and the Humber	31,058	2.6	11%	10%	6.0%
East Midlands	32,071	2.8	11%	12%	9.5%
West Midlands	39,825	2.9	14%	12%	19%
East of England	36,116	3.3	12%	16%	14%
South East (including London)	45,592	3.6	16%	18%	29%
South West	64,655	2.6	22%	19%	15%
England	292,401	2.9	100%	100%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
2. Total labour includes farmers, partners, directors, spouses, salaried managers, regular and casual workers.
3. Casual workers are those usually employed for less than 20 weeks of the year.
4. Number of workers per farm calculations are averages based on the total number of farm holdings in the region.
5. Part time workers are those employed for less than 39 hours a week.
6. Percentage calculations for full and part time workers do not include salaried managers.

Section 2: Other geographical breakdowns

Further information and other geographical classifications related to the Defra June Survey can be found on our GOV.UK web page: [Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June](#).

England regional data for aggregate agricultural accounts can be found in the [Total Income from Farming for the regions of England](#) publication on GOV.UK.

English county data for farm accounts from the Farm Business Survey can be found on the [Farm Business Survey web page](#).

Section 3: Data notes

Figures are for commercial holdings as at June 2023 (unless stated otherwise). Years may differ between measures since this publication uses data from a range of sources and is updated twice yearly to use the latest data available.

Commercial holdings are those with levels of farming activity above a specified threshold as detailed in this publication's [guidance note](#).

For further information about the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture please visit our [survey notes and guidance page](#) on GOV.UK.

Section 4: Contact details

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