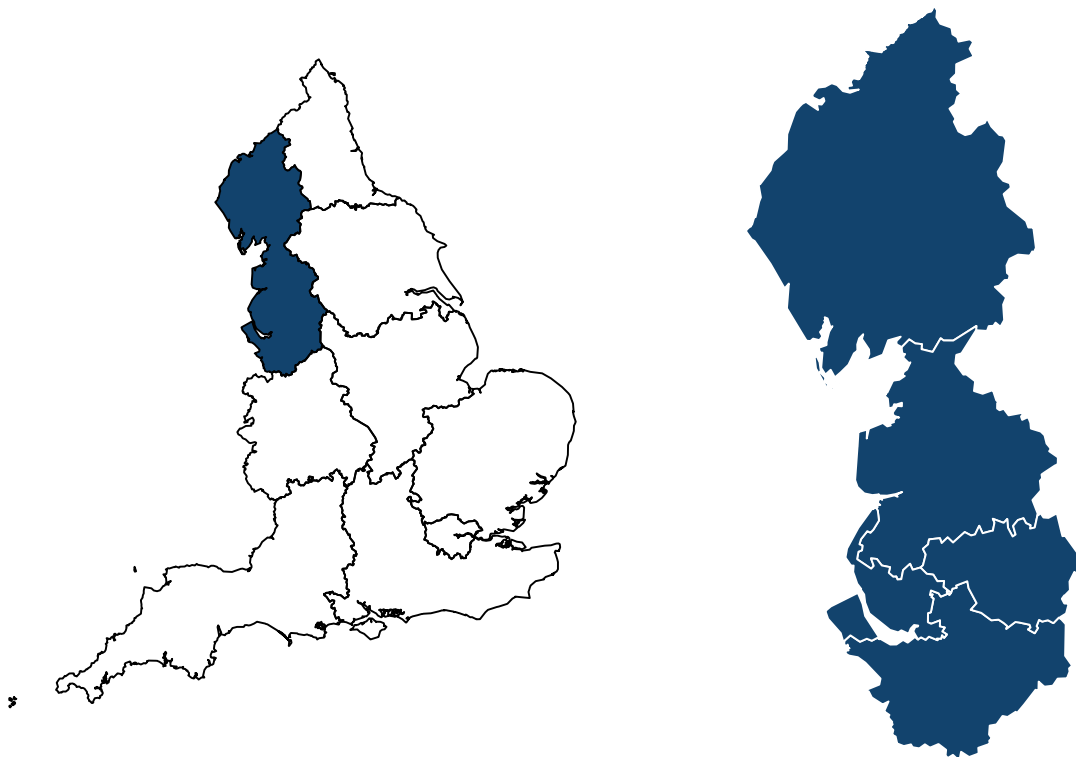


Agricultural facts: North West region

31 October 2024

Section 1: Key statistics

Figure 1.1: A map of England with the North West region highlighted



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

The North West region comprises Cumbria, Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Key statistics for the North West region

- Total Income from Farming¹ in 2023 was £268 million, a decrease of 25% since 2022 (Source: [Total Income from Farming for the regions of England](#)).
- In 2023, the largest contributor to the output² value (£2.4 billion) was milk (£987 million). This commodity accounted for 40% of the output (Source: [Total Income from Farming for the regions of England](#)).
- The average farm size in 2023 was 76 hectares (Table 1.1). This is the third smallest average farm size of all the English regions and smaller than the English average of 88 hectares.
- The predominant farm types in 2023 were grazing livestock (55% of the region's holdings) and general cropping (20% of the region's holdings) farms (Figure 1.4).
- Across all farm types, average Farm Business Income³ was £96,600 per farm in 2022/23, which was an increase of 20% from 2021/22 (Figure 1.6).

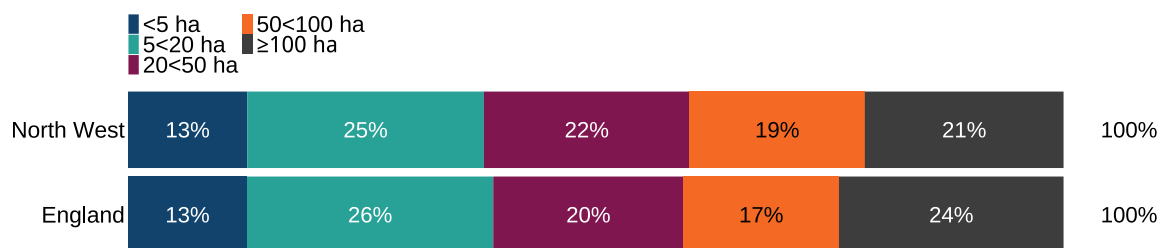
¹ Total Income from Farming (TIFF) is the net income to farms once costs have been accounted for, so is calculated as “outputs & subsidies” minus “inputs & costs”. [More information on aggregate agricultural accounts can be found on GOV.UK.](#)

² Output is the total value (at market prices) 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.](#)

Agricultural facts: North West region

Figure 1.2: Distribution of farms by size in 2023 (percentage of farm holdings)

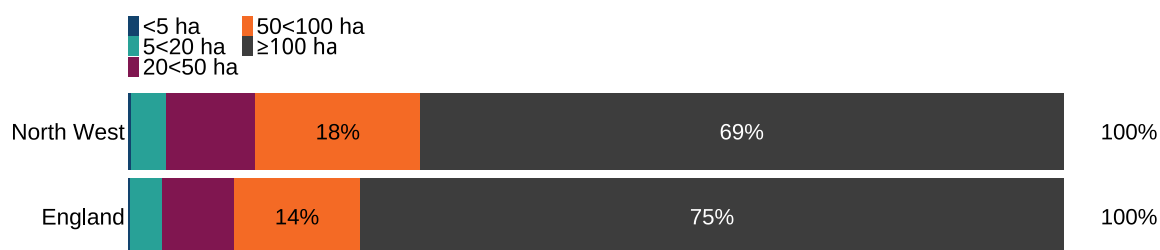


Region	<5 ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	≥100 ha	Total
North West	13%	25%	22%	19%	21%	100%
England	13%	26%	20%	17%	24%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey

Notes: “ha” means “hectares”. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 1.3: Distribution of farms by size in 2023 (percentage of farmed area)



Region	<5 ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	≥100 ha	Total
North West	0.3%	3.7%	9.6%	18%	69%	100%
England	0.3%	3.3%	7.7%	14%	75%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey

Notes: “ha” means “hectares”. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Agricultural facts: North West region

Table 1.1: Land use in 2023

Measure	North West	England
Total farmed area (thousand hectares)	941	8,999
Average farm size (hectares)	76	88
Rented (% of farmed area)	36%	32%
Arable (% of farmed area)	22%	53%
Permanent pasture (% of farmed area)	61%	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.

Table 1.2: Crop areas in 2023 (thousand hectares)

Crop	North West	England	North West as % of England
Wheat	32	1,580	2.0%
Barley	37	799	4.7%
Maize	14	218	6.5%
Potatoes	5.3	82	6.4%
Oilseed rape	5.5	342	1.6%
Field veg	3.3	77	4.3%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. Crops displayed are those more predominant in the area.
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](#).

Table 1.3: Livestock numbers in 2023 (thousand head)

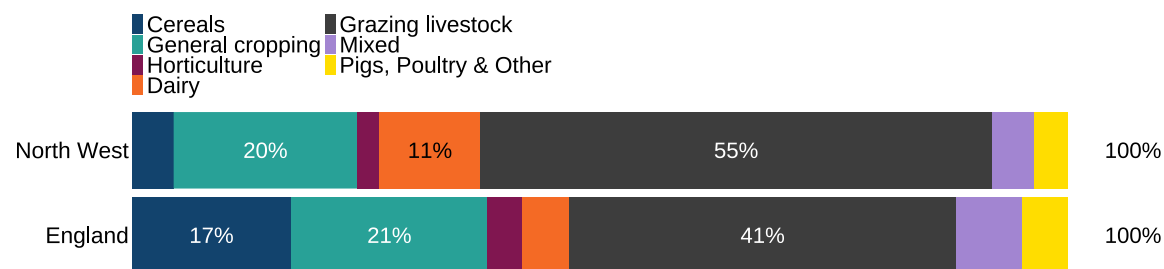
Livestock	North West	England	North West as % of England
Cattle	898	4,864	18%
Dairy herd	274	1,053	26%
Beef herd	73	602	12%
Pigs	85	3,633	2.3%
Sheep	2,971	14,451	21%
Poultry	10,600	130,549	8.1%
Laying flock	2,738	23,007	12%
Table chickens	7,102	91,096	7.8%

Source: Defra, June Survey

Notes:

1. Livestock displayed are those more predominant in the area.
2. Cattle numbers relate to commercial holdings only.
3. Sheep numbers include lambs.

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



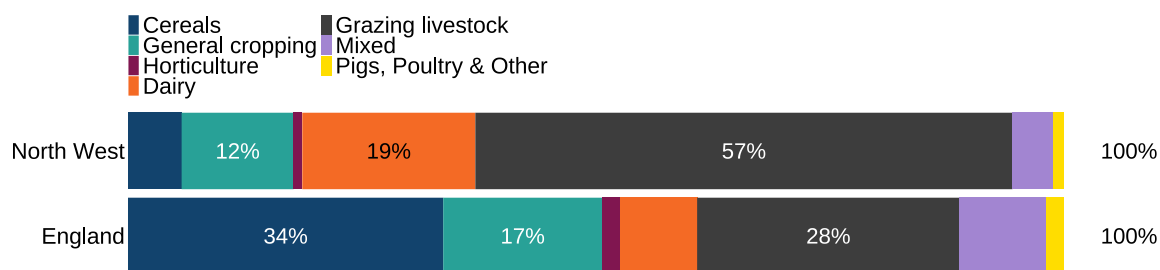
Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
North West	4.5%	20%	2.4%	11%	55%	4.5%	3.6%	100%
England	17%	21%	3.7%	5.0%	41%	7.0%	4.9%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey

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

Agricultural facts: North West region

Figure 1.5: Distribution of farms by type in 2023 (percentage of farmed area)



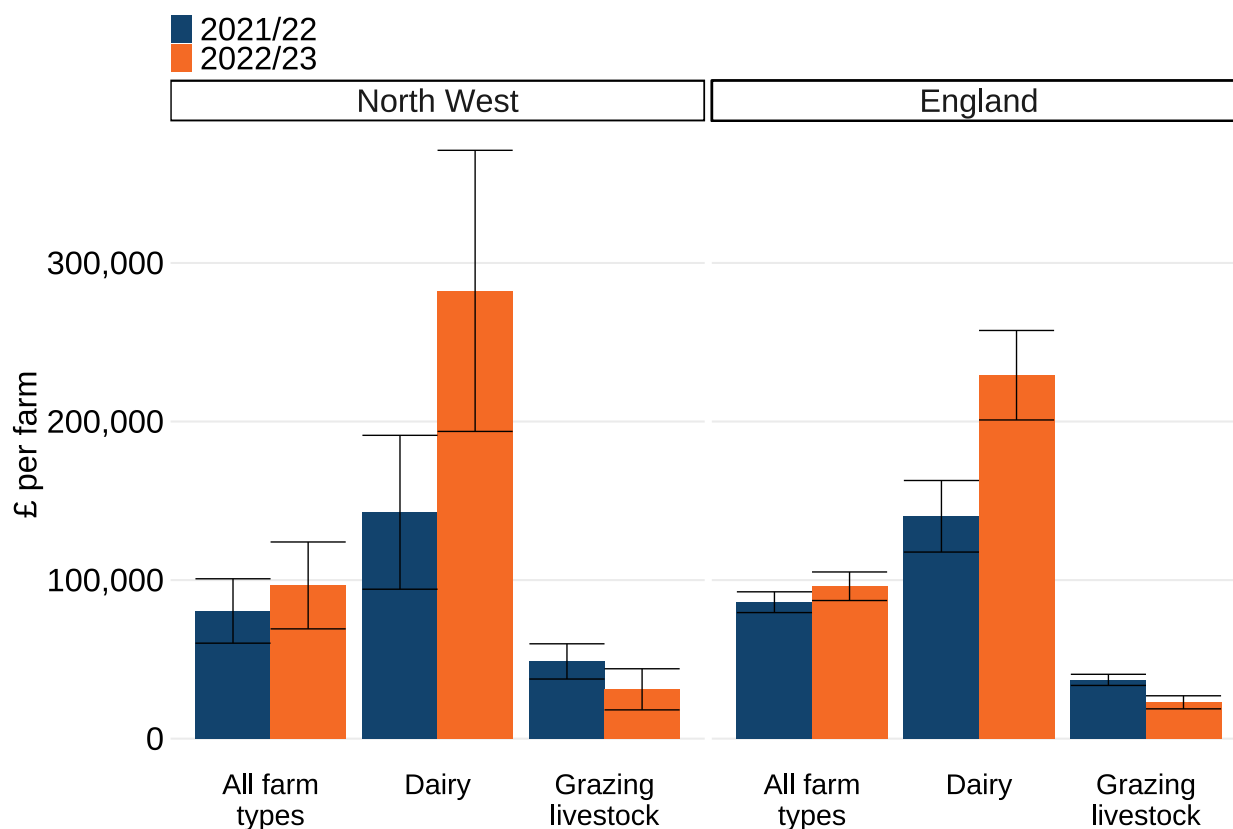
Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
North West	5.7%	12%	0.9%	19%	57%	4.3%	1.2%	100%
England	34%	17%	1.9%	8.3%	28%	9.2%	1.9%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

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

Figure 1.6: Average Farm Business Income in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (£ per farm)



Farm type	North West	England
All farm types (2022/23)	96,600 (±27,400)	96,100 (±9,000)
Dairy (2022/23)	282,400 (±88,600)	229,200 (±28,200)
Grazing livestock (2022/23)	31,100 (±13,000)	22,900 (±4,100)
All farm types (2021/22)	80,500 (±20,300)	86,100 (±6,600)
Dairy (2021/22)	142,800 (±48,500)	140,200 (±22,600)
Grazing livestock (2021/22)	48,700 (±11,100)	37,100 (±3,500)

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

Notes:

1. The Farm Business Survey year runs from March to February.
2. Excludes farms with less than 25,000 euros of standard output.
3. Farm types displayed are those more predominant in the area.
4. Lines or values in parentheses indicate the 95% confidence intervals.
5. Values are rounded to the nearest £100

Table 1.4: Labour force in 2023 (number of people)

Measure	North West	England	North West as % of England
Total labour	32,962	292,401	11%
Total labour per farm	2.7	2.9	[z]
Regular workers	7,275	64,583	11%
Regular workers per farm	0.6	0.6	[z]
Casual workers	2,194	37,027	5.9%
Casual workers per farm	0.2	0.4	[z]
% full time	53%	46%	[z]
% part time	38%	37%	[z]
% casual	6.7%	13%	[z]

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

1. “[z]” means “not applicable”
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: Data notes

Figures are for commercial holdings as at June 2023 (unless stated otherwise). 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.

“Region” in this statistical notice refers to [International Territorial Level 1 \(ITL1\)](#) for England. The ITL1 regions for Greater London and the South East have been combined in this statistical notice due to the fact that London has such a small farming infrastructure.

Section 3: Other geographical breakdowns

Defra June Survey data aggregated at other geographical classifications can be found in the [Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June](#) statistical data set on GOV.UK.

England regional data for aggregate agricultural accounts (including data at ITL2 and ITL3) 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 4: Contact details

Responsible statistician: Thomas Pearson

Team: Farming Statistics - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Email: AUK_stats_team@defra.gov.uk

For media queries between 9am and 5pm on weekdays:

Telephone: 0330 041 6560

Email: newsdesk@defra.gov.uk