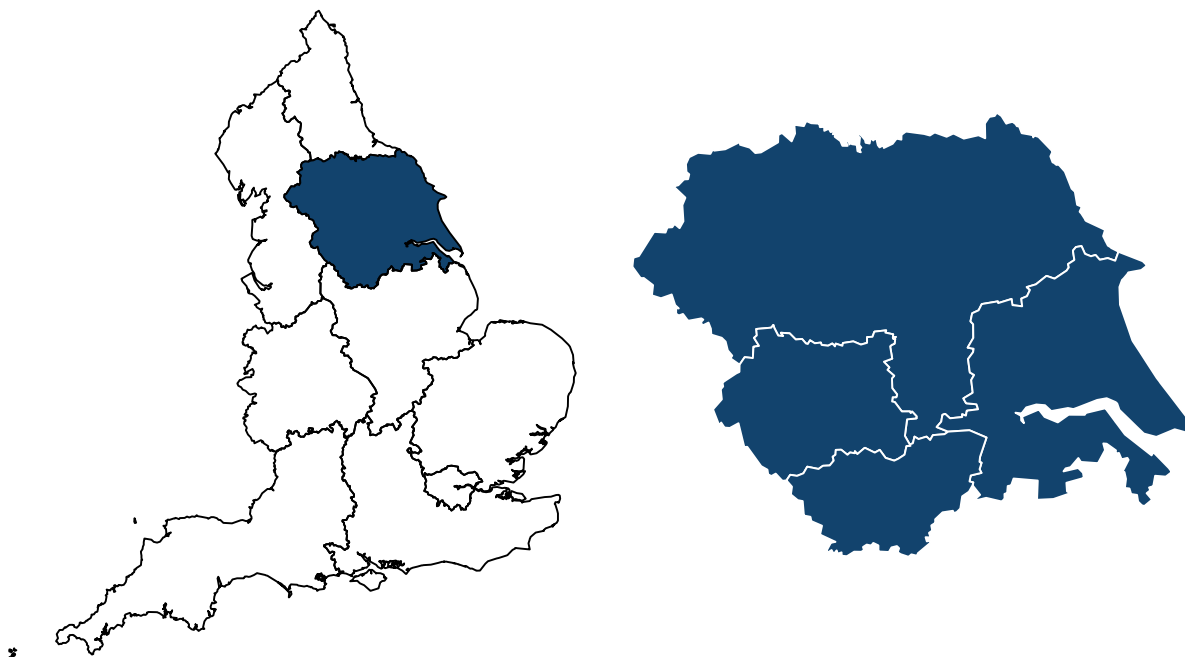# Agricultural facts: Yorkshire and the Humber region

31 October 2024

Section 1: Key statistics

Figure 1.1: A map of England with the Yorkshire and the Humber region highlighted

Source: Office for National Statistics, Open Geography Portal

The Yorkshire and the Humber region comprises North Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, Northern Lincolnshire, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

Key statistics for the Yorkshire and the Humber region

- Total Income from Farming[1] in 2023 was £551 million, a decrease of 10% since 2022 (Source: Total Income from Farming for the regions of England).
- In 2023, the largest contributors to the output[2] value (£3.3 billion) were pigmeat (£572 million), poultry (£394 million), wheat (£363 million) and fresh vegetables (£272 million). These commodities accounted for 49% of the output (Source: Total Income from Farming for the regions of England).
- The average farm size in 2023 was 94 hectares (Table 1.1). This is the fourth largest average farm size of all the English regions and larger than the English average of 88 hectares.
- The predominant farm types in 2023 were grazing livestock (40% of the region's holdings) and cereal (21% of the region's holdings) farms (Figure 1.4). Although pig farms only accounted for 4.2% of the region's holdings, the region accounted for 40% of the English pig population (Table 1.3).
- Across all farm types, average Farm Business Income[3] was £79,600 per farm in 2022/23, which was a decrease of 5.3% from 2021/22 (Figure 1.6).
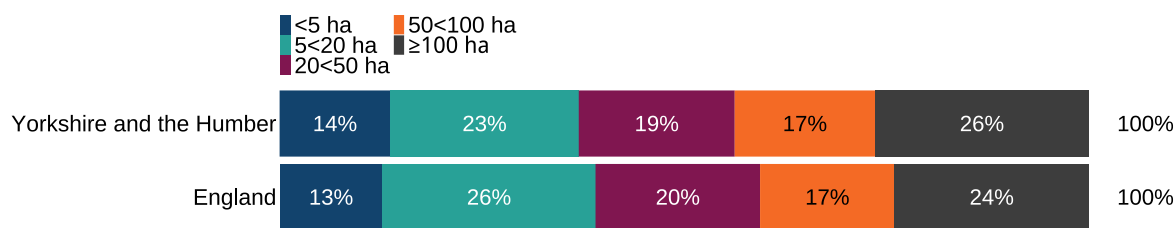
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[1] Total Income from Farming (TIFF) is the net income to farms once costs have been accounted for, so is calculated as "outputs & subsidies" minus "inputs & costs". More information on aggregate agricultural accounts can be found on GOV.UK.

[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.

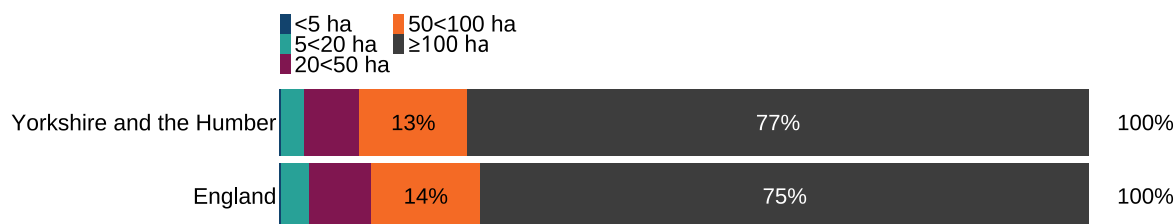**Figure 1.2: Distribution of farms by size in 2023 (percentage of farm holdings)**

Region	<5 ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	≥100 ha	Total
Yorkshire and the Humber	14%	23%	19%	17%	26%	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
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.3%	2.8%	6.8%	13%	77%	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: Yorkshire and the Humber region

Table 1.1: Land use in 2023

Measure	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Total farmed area (thousand hectares)	1,125	8,999
Average farm size (hectares)	94	88
Rented (% of farmed area)	32%	32%
Arable (% of farmed area)	52%	53%
Permanent pasture (% of farmed area)	34%	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	Yorkshire and the Humber	England	Yorkshire and the Humber as % of England
Wheat	220	1,580	14%
Barley	121	799	15%
Oilseed rape	58	342	17%
Potatoes	16	82	19%
Field veg	13	77	17%
Glasshouse	0.1	1.1	12%

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)

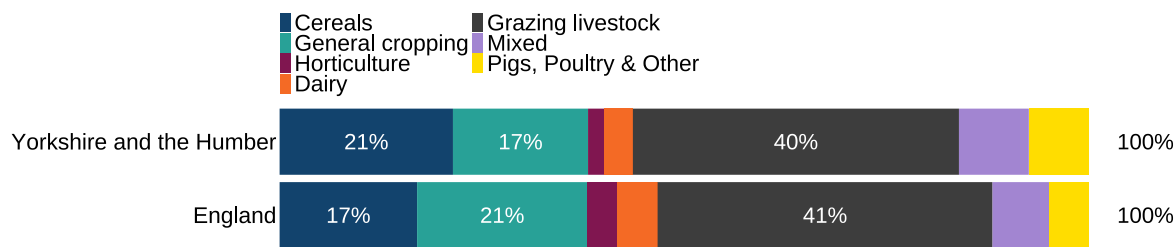| Livestock	Yorkshire and the Humber	England	Yorkshire and the Humber as % of England
Cattle	509	4,864	10%
Dairy herd	75	1,053	7.1%
Beef herd	74	602	12%
Pigs	1,438	3,633	40%
Sheep	2,017	14,451	14%
Poultry	16,677	130,549	13%
Table chickens	11,798	91,096	13%
Turkeys	312	2,417	13%

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)

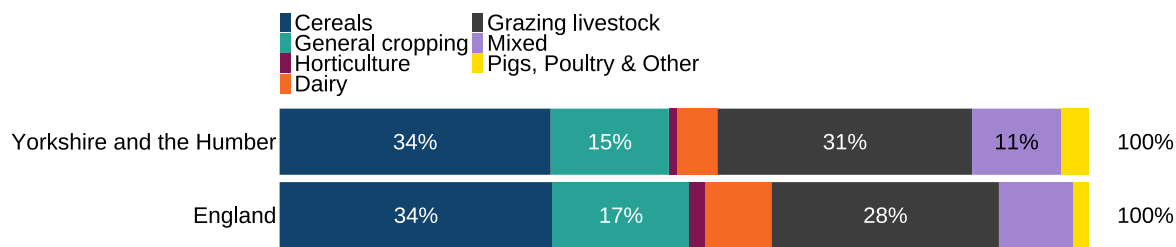| Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
Yorkshire and the Humber	21%	17%	2.0%	3.5%	40%	8.6%	7.4%	100%
England	17%	21%	3.7%	5.0%	41%	7.0%	4.9%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey

Notes:

1. Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

2. "Other" refers to unclassified farm types.

Agricultural facts: Yorkshire and the Humber region

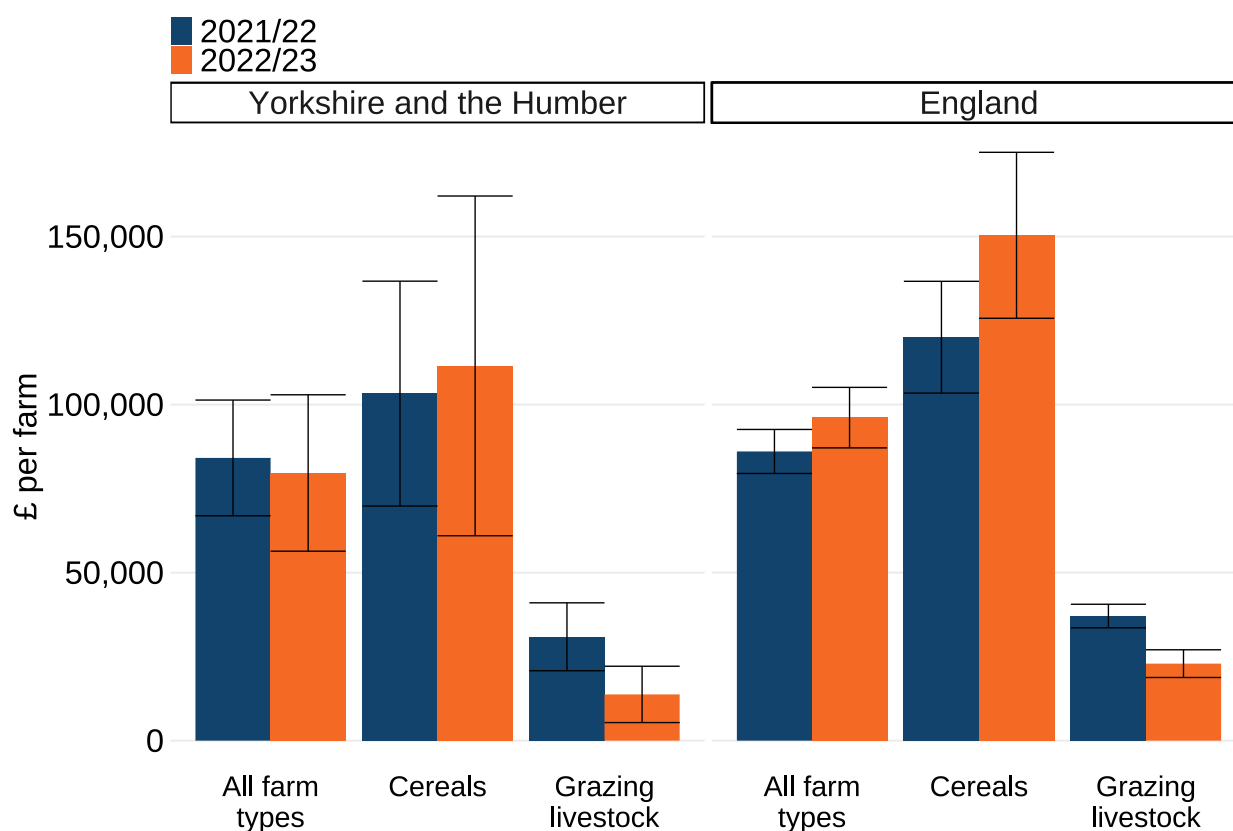## Figure 1.5: Distribution of farms by type in 2023 (percentage of farmed area)

Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
Yorkshire and the Humber	34%	15%	1.0%	5.1%	31%	11%	3.4%	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.

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

Farm type	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
All farm types (2022/23)	79,600 (±23,300)	96,100 (±9,000)
Cereals (2022/23)	111,500 (±50,500)	150,400 (±24,700)
Grazing livestock (2022/23)	13,800 (±8,400)	22,900 (±4,100)
All farm types (2021/22)	84,100 (±17,200)	86,100 (±6,600)
Cereals (2021/22)	103,300 (±33,500)	120,100 (±16,600)
Grazing livestock (2021/22)	30,900 (±10,100)	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

Agricultural facts: Yorkshire and the Humber region

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

Measure	Yorkshire and the Humber	England	Yorkshire and the Humber as % of England
Total labour	31,058	292,401	11%
Total labour per farm	2.6	2.9	[z]
Regular workers	6,584	64,583	10%
Regular workers per farm	0.6	0.6	[z]
Casual workers	2,208	37,027	6.0%
Casual workers per farm	0.2	0.4	[z]
% full time	51%	46%	[z]
% part time	39%	37%	[z]
% casual	7.1%	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.

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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

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