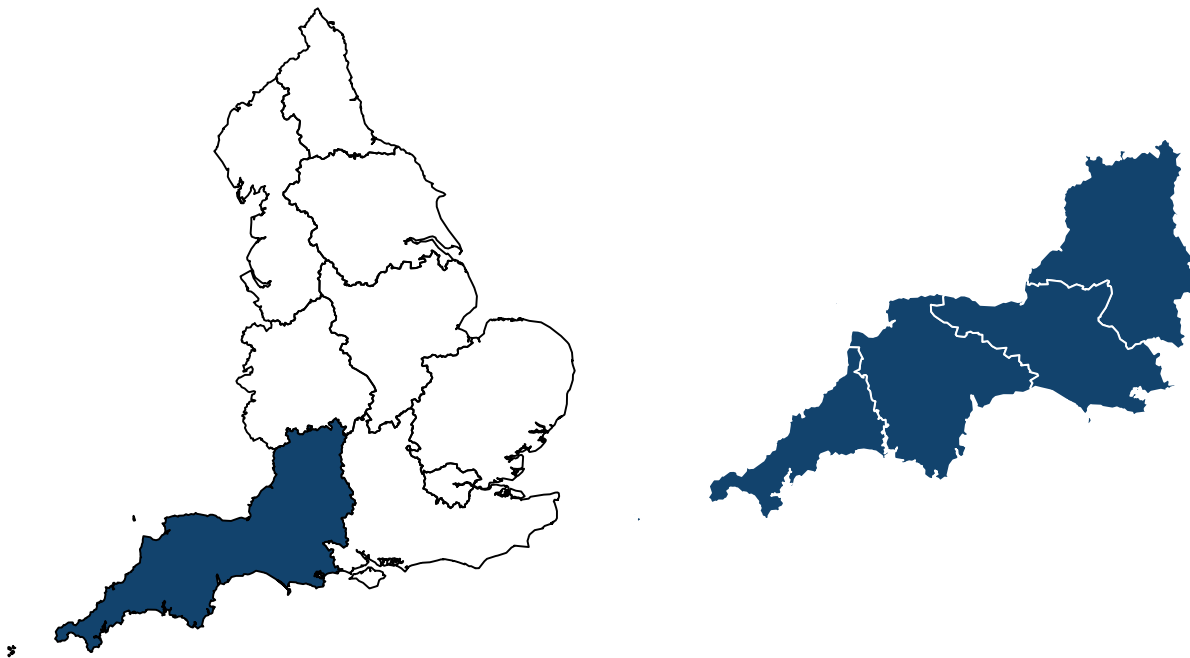


Agricultural facts: South West region

31 October 2024

Section 1: Key statistics

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



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

The South West region comprises the Bath/Bristol area, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and the Isles of Scilly.

Key statistics for the South West region

- Total Income from Farming¹ in 2023 was £631 million, a decrease of 32% since 2022 (Source: [Total Income from Farming for the regions of England](#)).
- In 2023, the largest contributors to the output² value (£4.7 billion) were milk (£1.5 billion) and beef (£581 million). These commodities accounted for 44% of the output (Source: [Total Income from Farming for the regions of England](#)).
- The average farm size in 2023 was 69 hectares (Table 1.1). This is the second 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 (47% of the region's holdings) and general cropping (22% of the region's holdings) farms (Figure 1.4).
- Across all farm types, average Farm Business Income³ was £62,800 per farm in 2022/23, which was an increase of 3.4% from 2021/22 (Figure 1.6).

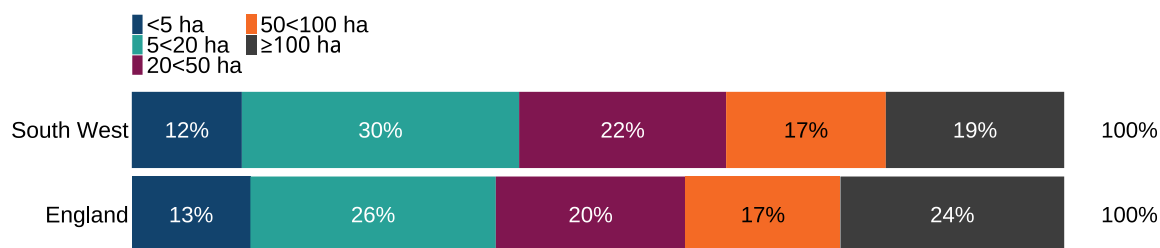
¹ Total Income from Farming (TIFF) is the net income to farms once costs have been accounted for, so is calculated as “outputs & subsidies” minus “inputs & costs”. [More information on aggregate agricultural accounts can be found on GOV.UK.](#)

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: South West region

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

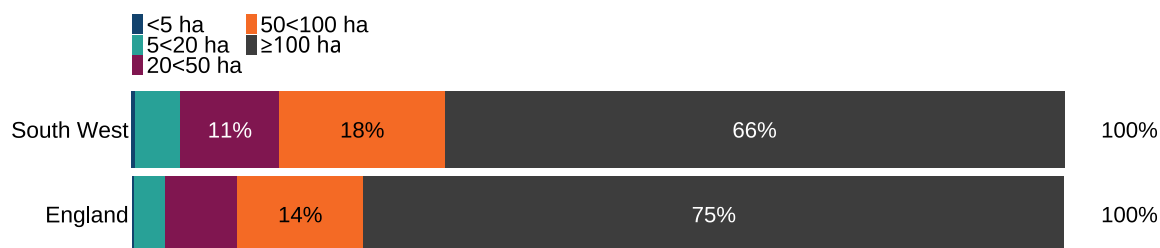


Region	<5 ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	≥100 ha	Total
South West	12%	30%	22%	17%	19%	100%
England	13%	26%	20%	17%	24%	100%

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
South West	0.4%	4.8%	11%	18%	66%	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: South West region

Table 1.1: Land use in 2023

Measure	South West	England
Total farmed area (thousand hectares)	1,746	8,999
Average farm size (hectares)	69	88
Rented (% of farmed area)	32%	32%
Arable (% of farmed area)	43%	53%
Permanent pasture (% of farmed area)	46%	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	South West	England	South West as % of England
Wheat	152	1,580	9.6%
Barley	123	799	15%
Maize	62	218	29%
Oats	22	134	16%
Oilseed rape	37	342	11%
Hardy nursery stock	1.7	8.8	19%
Orchards	3.7	19	19%

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	South West	England	South West as % of England
Cattle	1,631	4,864	34%
Dairy herd	409	1,053	39%
Beef herd	162	602	27%
Pigs	322	3,633	8.9%
Sheep	2,919	14,451	20%
Poultry	16,974	130,549	13%
Goats	34	92	37%

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)



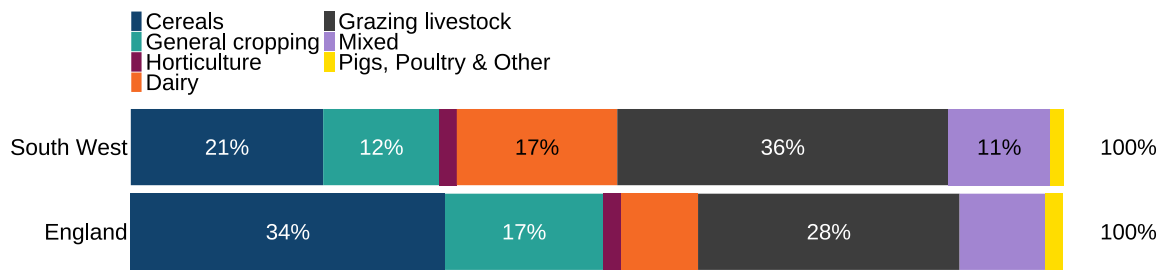
Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
South West	8.6%	22%	4.0%	7.6%	47%	7.6%	3.6%	100%
England	17%	21%	3.7%	5.0%	41%	7.0%	4.9%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

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

Agricultural facts: South West region

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



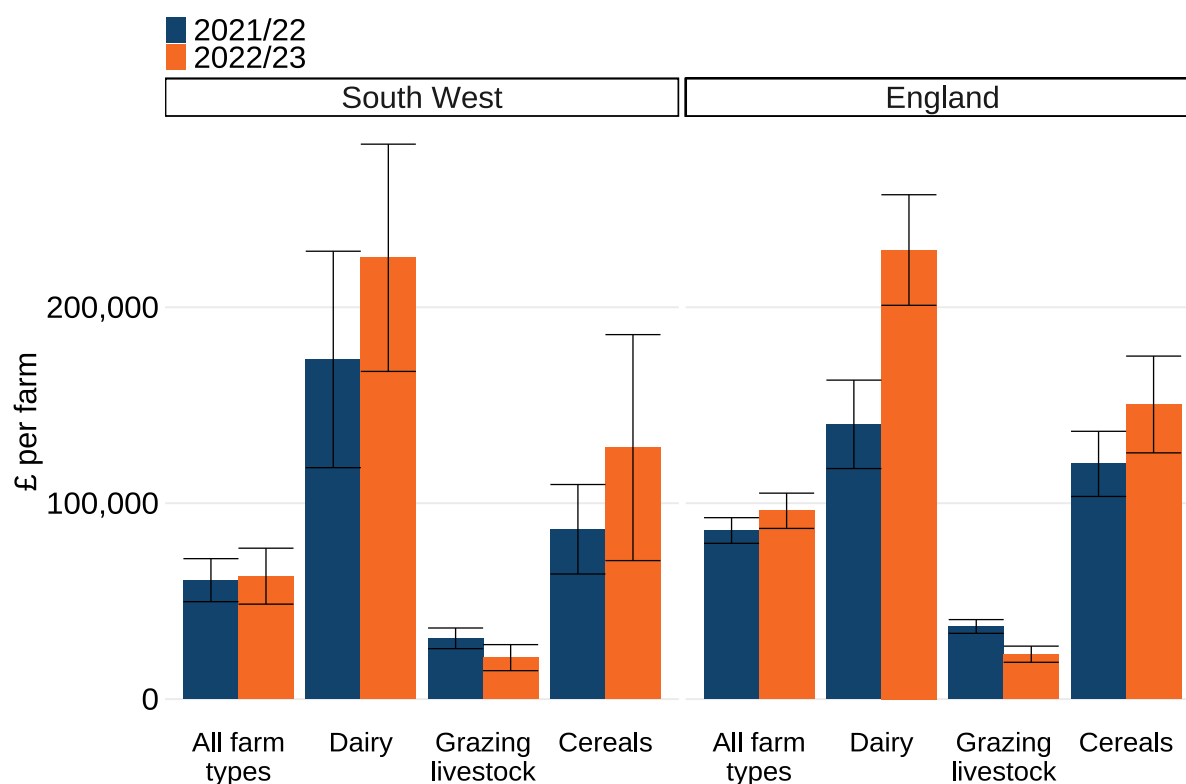
Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
South West	21%	12%	1.9%	17%	36%	11%	1.4%	100%
England	34%	17%	1.9%	8.3%	28%	9.2%	1.9%	100%

Source: [Defra, June Survey](#)

Notes:

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

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



Farm type	South West	England
All farm types (2022/23)	62,800 (±14,300)	96,100 (±9,000)
Dairy (2022/23)	225,200 (±58,000)	229,200 (±28,200)
Grazing livestock (2022/23)	21,200 (±6,600)	22,900 (±4,100)
Cereals (2022/23)	128,400 (±57,700)	150,400 (±24,700)
All farm types (2021/22)	60,700 (±11,000)	86,100 (±6,600)
Dairy (2021/22)	173,400 (±55,200)	140,200 (±22,600)
Grazing livestock (2021/22)	31,000 (±5,300)	37,100 (±3,500)
Cereals (2021/22)	86,700 (±22,800)	120,100 (±16,600)

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	South West	England	South West as % of England
Total labour	64,655	292,401	22%
Total labour per farm	2.6	2.9	[z]
Regular workers	12,327	64,583	19%
Regular workers per farm	0.5	0.6	[z]
Casual workers	5,716	37,027	15%
Casual workers per farm	0.2	0.4	[z]
% full time	46%	46%	[z]
% part time	42%	37%	[z]
% casual	8.8%	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

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