GOV·UK

Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Official Statistics

Agricultural facts: East Midlands region

Updated 31 October 2024

Applies to England

Contents

Section 1: Key statistics
Section 2: Data notes
Section 3: Other geographical breakdowns
Section 4: Contact details

OGL

© Crown copyright 2024

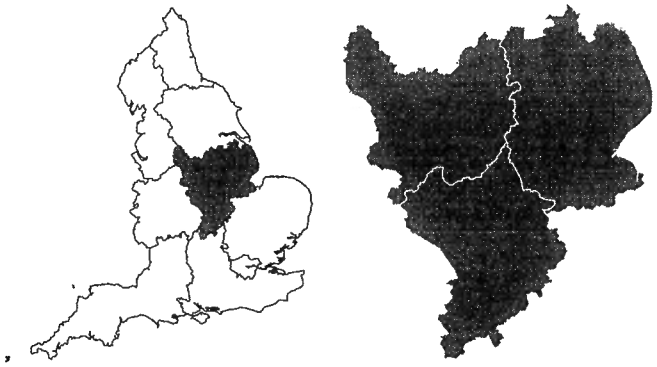
This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/agricultural-facts-england-regional-profiles/agricultural-facts-east-midland-region

Section 1: Key statistics

Figure 1.1: A map of England with the East Midlands region highlighted



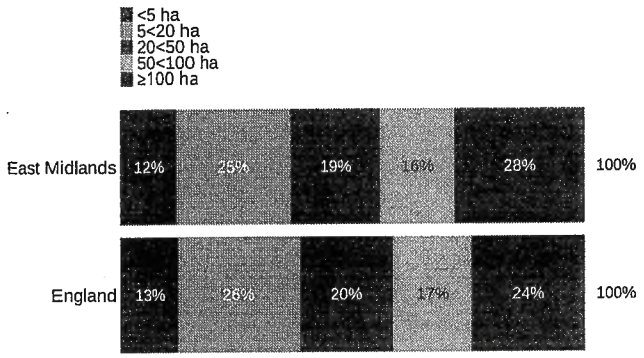
Source: Office for National Statistics, Open Geography Portal (https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/)

The East Midlands region comprises Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Key statistics for the East Midlands region

- Total Income from Farming[footnote 1] in 2023 was £835 million, a decrease of 10% since 2022 (Source: Total Income from Farming for the regions of England (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-income-from-farming-for-the-regions-of-england)).
- In 2023, the largest contributors to the output[footnote 2] value (£3.9 billion) were plants and flowers (£586 million), poultry (£553 million) and wheat (£515 million). These commodities accounted for 43% of the output (Source: Total Income from Farming for the regions of England (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-income-from-farming-for-the-regions-of-england)).
- The average farm size in 2023 was 103 hectares (Table 1.1). This is the third 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 (34% of the region's holdings) and cereal (27% of the region's holdings) farms (Figure 1.4).
- Across all farm types, average Farm Business Income[footnote 3] was £124,400 per farm in 2022/23, which was an increase of 25% from 2021/22 (Figure 1.6).

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



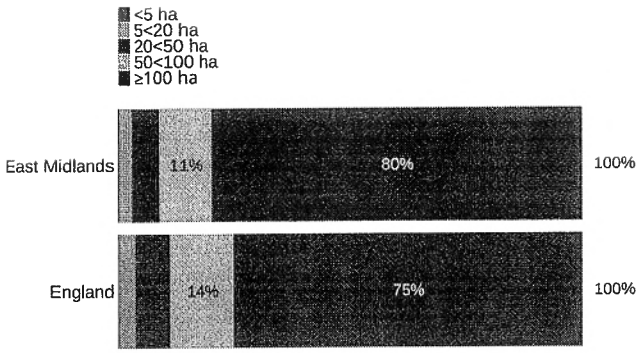
Region	<5 ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	≥100 ha	Total
East Midlands	12%	25%	19%	16%	28%	100%
England	13%	26%	20%	17%	24%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

Notes:

1. "ha" means "hectares"
2. 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
East Midlands	0.2%	2.7%	6.2%	11%	80%	100%
England	0.3%	3.3%	7.7%	14%	75%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

Notes:

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

Table 1.1: Land use in 2023

Measure	East Midlands	England
Total farmed area (thousand hectares)	1,172	8,999
Average farm size (hectares)	103	88
Rented (% of farmed area)	33%	32%
Arable (% of farmed area)	70%	53%
Permanent pasture (% of farmed area)	21%	34%

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

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	East Midlands	England	East Midlands as % of England
Wheat	313	1,580	20%
Barley	130	799	16%
Oilseed rape	72	342	21%
Field veg	21	77	27%
Sugar beet	23	99	23%
Hardy nursery stock	3.5	8.8	40%

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

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 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/667e97a67d26b2be17a4b460/structure-england-june-regions-27jun24.ods).

Table 1.3: Livestock numbers in 2023 (thousand head)

Livestock	East Midlands	England	East Midlands as % of England
Cattle	424	4,864	8.7%
Dairy herd	66	1,053	6.2%
Beef herd	65	602	11%
Pigs	328	3,633	9.0%
Sheep	1,186	14,451	8.2%

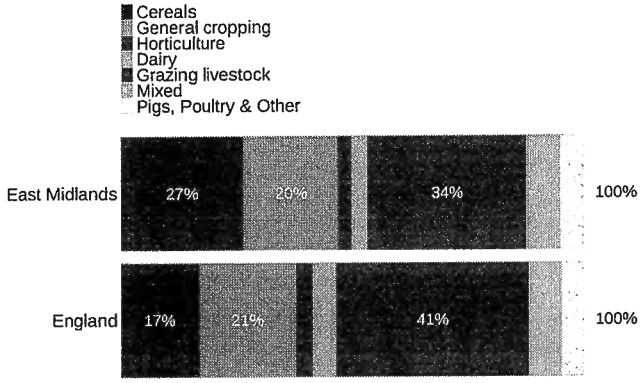
Livestock	East Midlands	England	East Midlands as % of England
Poultry	21,981	130,549	17%
Table chickens	16,437	91,096	18%
Turkeys	721	2,417	30%

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

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)



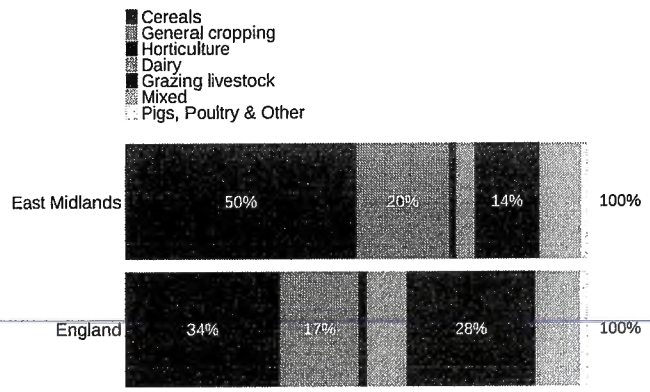
Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
East Midlands	27%	20%	3.0%	3.3%	34%	7.1%	5.2%	100%
England	17%	21%	3.7%	5.0%	41%	7.0%	4.9%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

Notes:

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

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



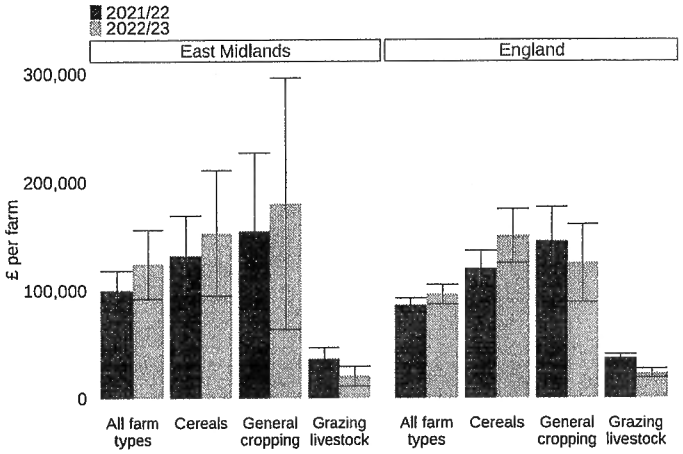
Region	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Dairy	Grazing livestock	Mixed	Pigs, Poultry & Other	Total
East Midlands	50%	20%	1.8%	3.9%	14%	8.8%	1.6%	100%
England	34%	17%	1.9%	8.3%	28%	9.2%	1.9%	100%

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

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	East Midlands	England
All farm types (2022/23)	124,400 (±32,000)	96,100 (±9,000)
Cereals (2022/23)	153,000 (±57,900)	150,400 (±24,700)
General cropping (2022/23)	180,100 (±115,900)	125,200 (±35,900)
Grazing livestock (2022/23)	20,300 (±9,000)	22,900 (±4,100)
All farm types (2021/22)	99,800 (±18,700)	86,100 (±6,600)
Cereals (2021/22)	132,200 (±37,000)	120,100 (±16,600)
General cropping (2021/22)	154,900 (±72,200)	145,400 (±31,500)
Grazing livestock (2021/22)	36,500 (±10,500)	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	East Midlands	England	East Midlands as % of England
Total labour	32,071	292,401	11%
Total labour per farm	2.8	2.9	[z]
Regular workers	7,429	64,583	12%
Regular workers per farm	0.7	0.6	[z]
Casual workers	3,532	37,027	9.5%
Casual workers per farm	0.3	0.4	[z]
% full time	48%	46%	[z]
% part time	36%	37%	[z]
% casual	11%	13%	[z]

Source: Defra, June Survey (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-england-and-the-uk-at-june)

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 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/agricultural-facts-england-regional-profiles/agricultural-facts-england-regional-profiles-guidance-note). For further information about the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture please visit our survey notes and guidance page (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-survey-notes-and-guidance) on GOV.UK.

"Region" in this statistical notice refers to International Territorial Level (https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/ukgeographies/eurostat#international-territorial-levels-itls) 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 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/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 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/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 (http://www.farmbusinesssurvey.co.uk/DataBuilder/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=Counties).

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

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 (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/aggregate-agricultural-accounts).
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 (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/aggregate-agricultural-accounts).
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 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/farm-business-income).

OGL All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated

© Crown copyright