Food insecurity

Measure of food insecurity

Research has found that food insecurity is higher in the following groups:

- People with low incomes, particular those on benefits

- Working age people (older people are less likely to report food insecurity)

- People in rented homes

- Families with children

- Minority ethnic groups and LGBTQ+

- Disabled people and unpaid carers

Research has found that food insecurity is impacted by:

- Access to food (related to area they live in, personal circumstances or external factors)

- Ability to prepare food

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Factors impacting on food insecurity

- Food inflation March 2023 was 19.1%, the highest since 1977. In July 2023, food inflation was 14.8%.

- In July and August 2023, 56% of adults reported an increase in their cost of living compared with the month before (ONS). Of these, 47% had started spending less on essentials including food.

- In 2021/22, 4.7 million people in the UK (7%) were in food insecure households in the UK, according to the DWP. This included 12% of children, 7% of working-age adults, and 1% of pensioners.

- The Food Foundation found that in June 2023, 17.0% of households in the UK were 'food insecure' (ate less or went a day without eating because they couldn't access or afford food), up from 8.8% in January 2022 and 7.4% in January 2021.

- More than 760,000 people used a Trussell Trust food bank for the first time in 2022/23, a 38% increase from 2021/22.

- In January 2023, around 23.8% of state school pupils were eligible for Free School Meals. This rate has increased sharply since 2018 and is the highest rate recorded since the current time series began in 2006.

Source: House of Commons Library, Food poverty: Households, food banks and free school meals

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Factors impacting on food insecurity update

- Food inflation April 2024 was 2.9%, down from 19.1% in March 2023%.

- In May and June 2024, 54% of adults reported an increase in their cost of living compared with the month before (ONS). Of these, 91% reported an increase in the price of their food shopping.

- The number of people in 'food insecure' households rose to 7.2 million in 2022/23, an increase of 2.5 million people since 2021/22, according to data on households that have below average incomes from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

- For the school year 23/24, 24.6% of state school pupils were eligible for Free School Meals. This rate has increased sharply since 2018 and is the highest rate recorded since the current time series began in 2006.

- According to the DWP data, in 2022/23, 3% of the UK population had used a food bank in the previous 12 months, the same rate as in 2021/22.

- The Trussell Trust, reported that between April and September 2023 it provided 1.5 million emergency food parcels, a record high for this period, and a 16% increase from the same period in 2022. 65% of these parcels were for families with children.
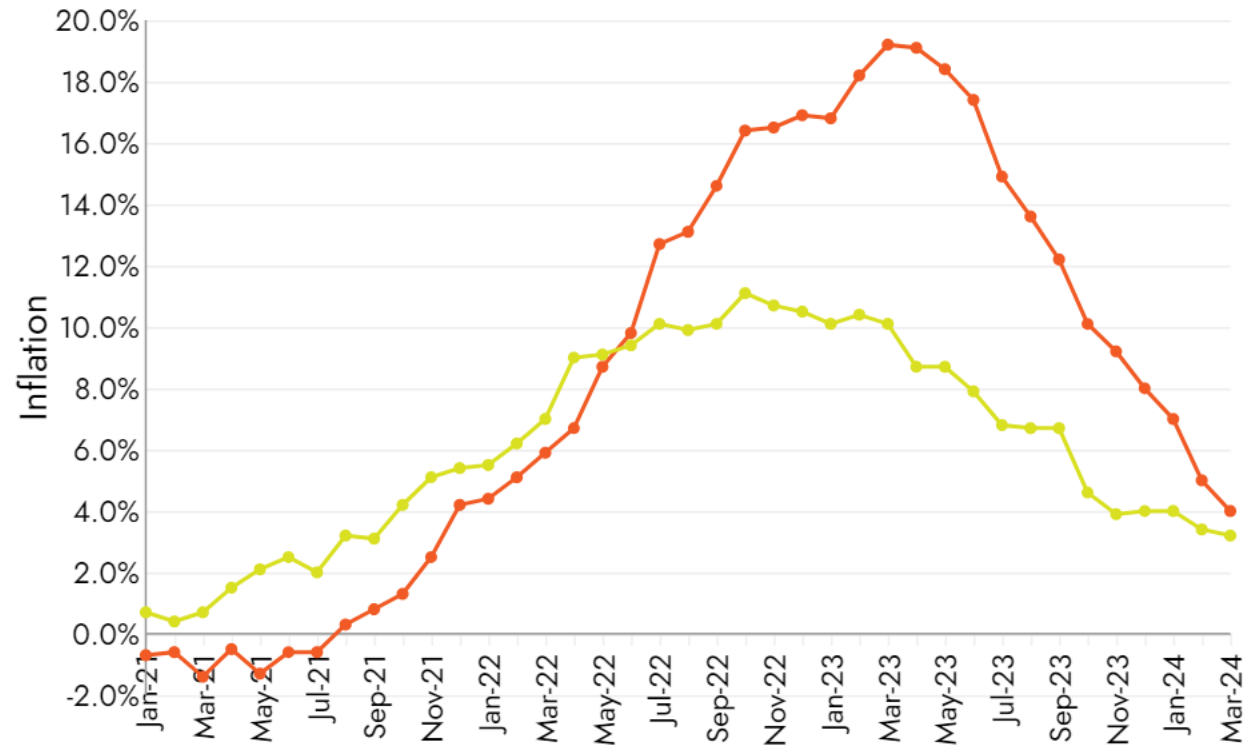
Updates from sources references or Who is experiencing food insecurity in the UK? (parliament.uk) April 2024

Source: House of Commons Library, Food poverty: Households, food banks and free school meals

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Overall Inflation vs Food Inflation

Food & non-alcoholic beverages (CPIH)
Overall Inflation (CPI)

Data from the Office of National Statistics for 12 months to April 2014 shows:

- Overall inflation has fallen to 2.3%
- Food inflation has fallen to 2.9%

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Food Insecurity Tracker

9 million adults (17% of households) experienced food insecurity in June 2023

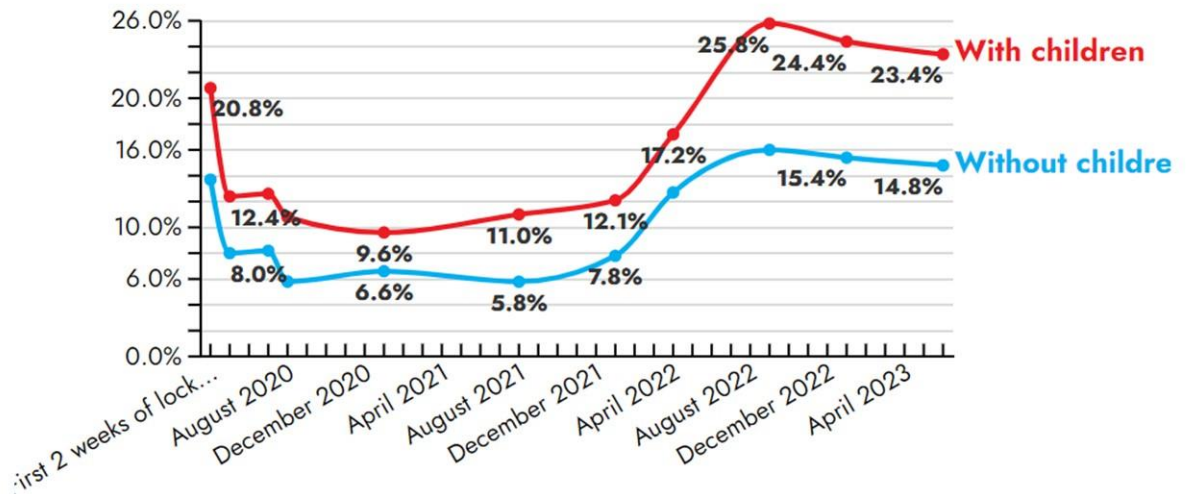Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity*:
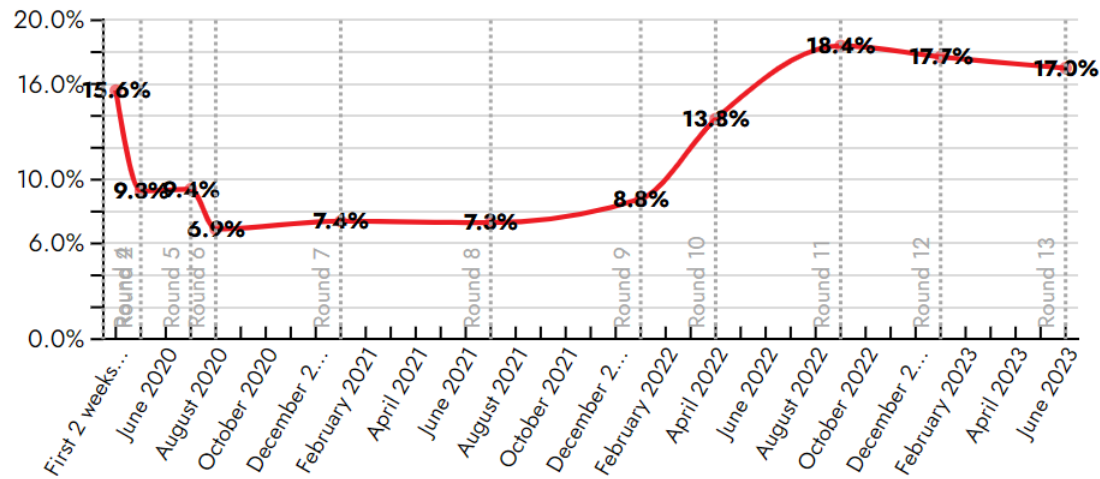
■ Moderate or severe food insecurity

* 1-month recall period

23.4% of households with children reported experiencing food insecurity in June 2023 compared with 14.8% of households without children

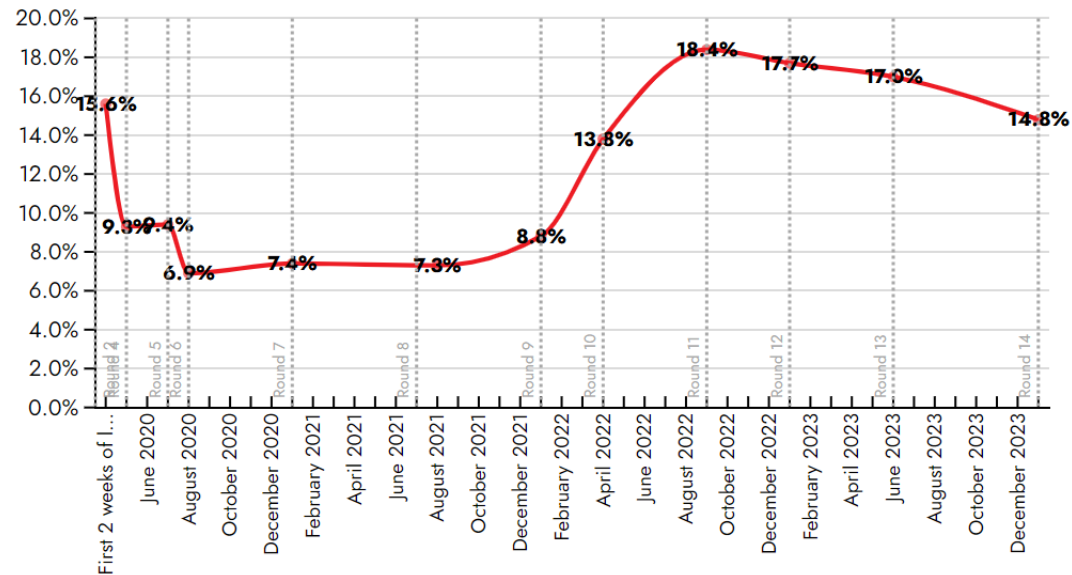Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity*:

* 1-month recall period

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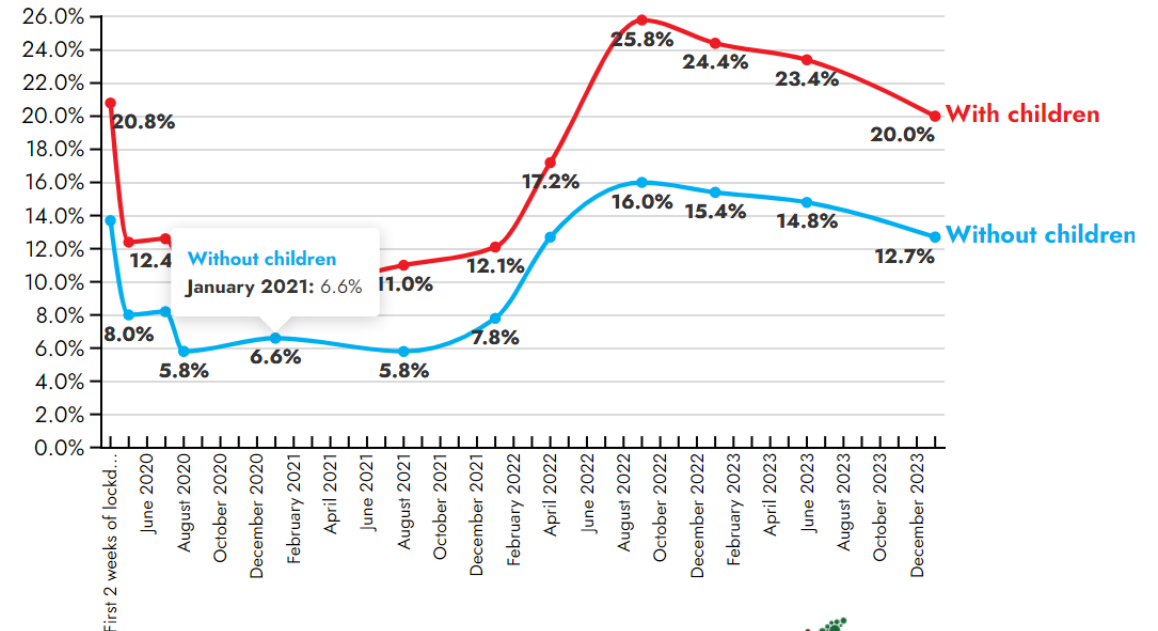
Food Insecurity Tracker - update

8 million adults (14.8% of households) experienced food insecurity in January 2024

Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity*:

20.0% of households with children reported experiencing food insecurity compared with 12.7% of households without children
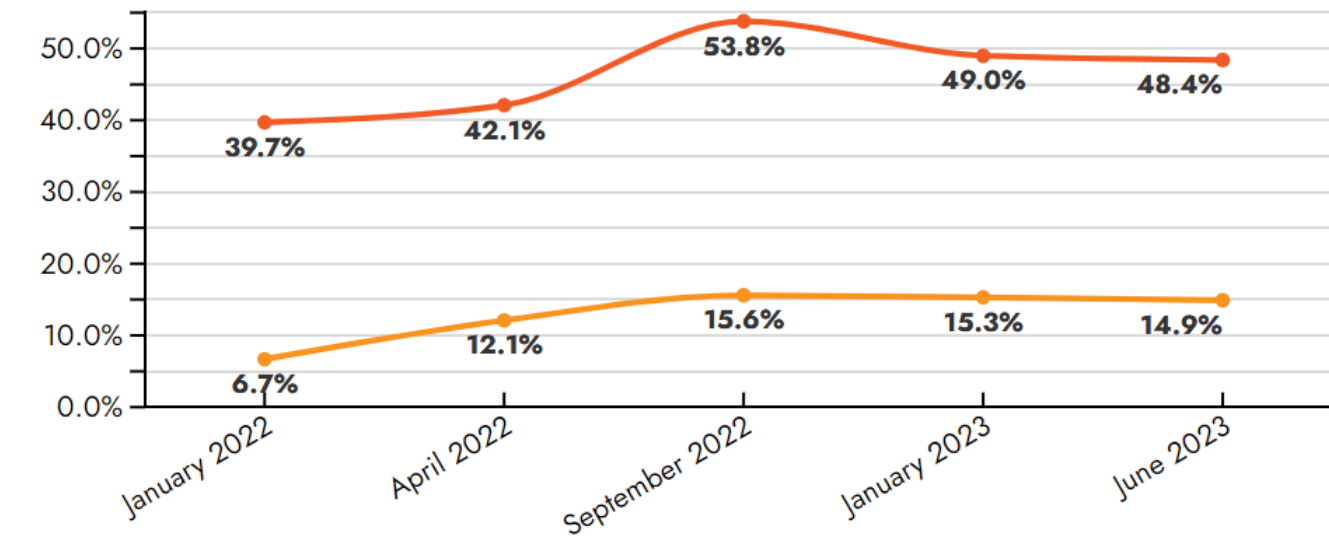
Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity*:

* 1-month recall period

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Food Insecurity Tracker

Nearly half of households in receipt of Universal Credit (48.4%) reported experiencing food insecurity in June 2023

Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity*:

Legend:
- Not in receipt of Universal Credit
- In receipt of Universal Credit

Data labels (In receipt of Universal Credit): 39.7%, 42.1%, 53.8%, 49.0%, 48.4%

Data labels (Not in receipt of Universal Credit): 6.7%, 12.1%, 15.6%, 15.3%, 14.9%

X-axis: January 2022, April 2022, September 2022, January 2023, June 2023

* 1-month recall period
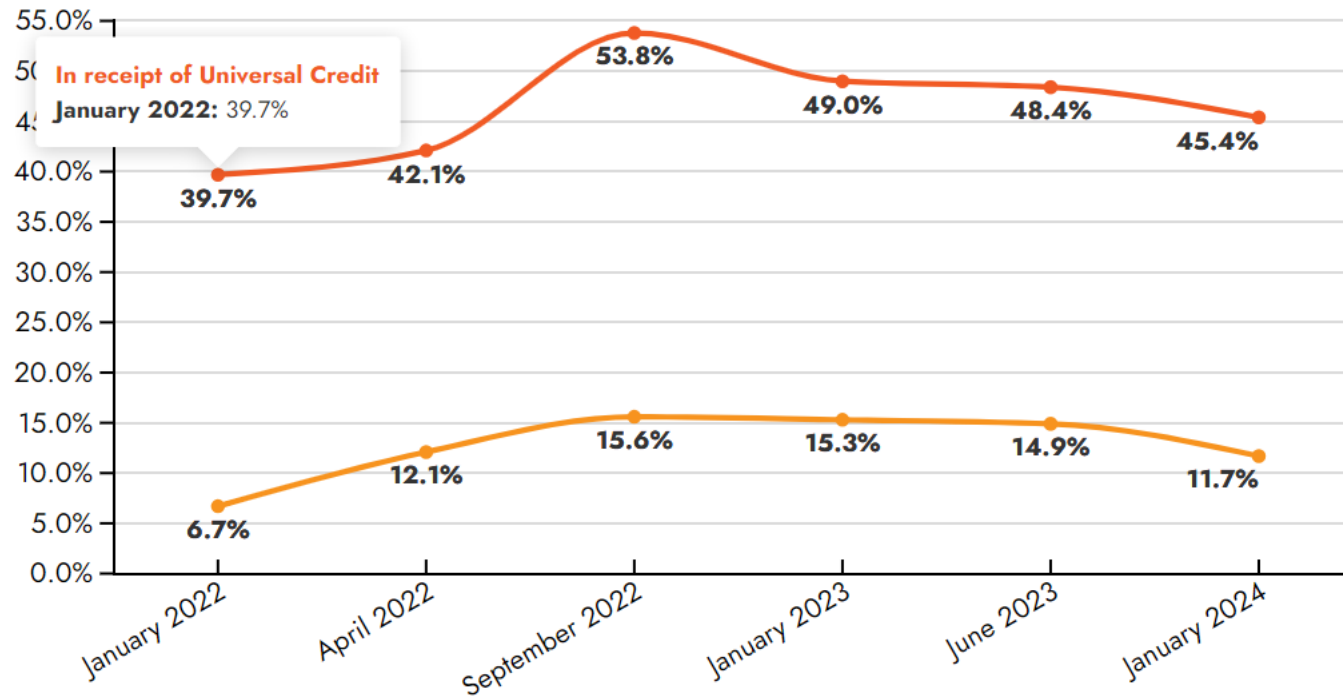
The Food Foundation

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Food Insecurity Tracker - update

45.4% of households in receipt of Universal Credit reported experiencing food insecurity

Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity*:

In receipt of Universal Credit
January 2022: 39.7%

The Food Foundation

* 1-month recall period

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Which Food inflation tracker

The Which? Food inflation tracker shows that while supermarket own-label budget items remain the cheapest overall, prices rose most highly.

Range of groceries	Annual inflation for the three months from May-July 2023	Annual inflation for the month of July 2023
Own-label budget	25.9%	24.3%
Own-label standard	17.1%	14.6%
Own-label premium	12.7%	11.7%
Branded	12.9%	12.2%

Which Food inflation tracker - update

The Which? Food inflation tracker shows that while supermarket own-label budget items remain the cheapest overall, prices rose most highly.

Range of groceries	Annual inflation for the three months to end of February 2024	Annual inflation for the month of February 2024
Own-label budget	17.7%	16.7%
Branded	6.1%	4.9%
Own-label standard	6.1%	4.8%
Own-label premium	4.7%	4.6%

UK local food insecurity of adults 2021

The estimates are produced by Dr Angelo Moretti (MMU), Dr Adam Whitworth (Univ Sheffield) and Dr Megan Blake (Univ Sheffield).

Hungry is defined as having skipped food for a whole day or more in the previous month or indicated they were hungry but not eaten because they could not afford or get access to food.

Struggle is defined as a positive response to at least one of the following:

* Sought Help accessing food

* Skipped or shrank meal

* Gave a reason for not having enough food

Worry is defined as choosing very worried or fairly worried about getting food

		York		North Yorkshire	
		%	**Number**	**%**	**Number**
Households experiencing hunger	Estimate	2.81	2,458	5.00	13,692
	95% lower bound	0.00	0	0.00	0
	95% upper bound	13.27	11,620	14.60	40,164
Households experiencing struggle with food insecurity	Estimate	7.54	6,601	10.40	28,681
	95% lower bound	0.00	0	0.50	1,356
	95% upper bound	16.16	14,150	20.80	57,221
Households worried about their food security	Estimate	9.50	8,315	8.10	22,240
	95% lower bound	2.54	2,228	1.80	4,943
	95% upper bound	16.45	14,402	14.40	39,537

Highest areas (local authority level):
Hunger: Selby (7.84%), Craven (6.07%), Scarborough (5.64%)
Struggle: Selby (14.7%), Scarborough (11.36%), Craven (10.08%)
Worried: York (9.50%), Scarborough (9.44%)

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**Please note: these percentages are not additive across measures. You can add across places within a single measure.).

Free school meals

Number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
North Yorkshire	6,728	8,162	9,441	11,599	12,767	13,964	14,518
York	1,942	2,317	2,728	3,349	3,694	3,989	4,246

Percentage of pupils eligible for Free School Meals
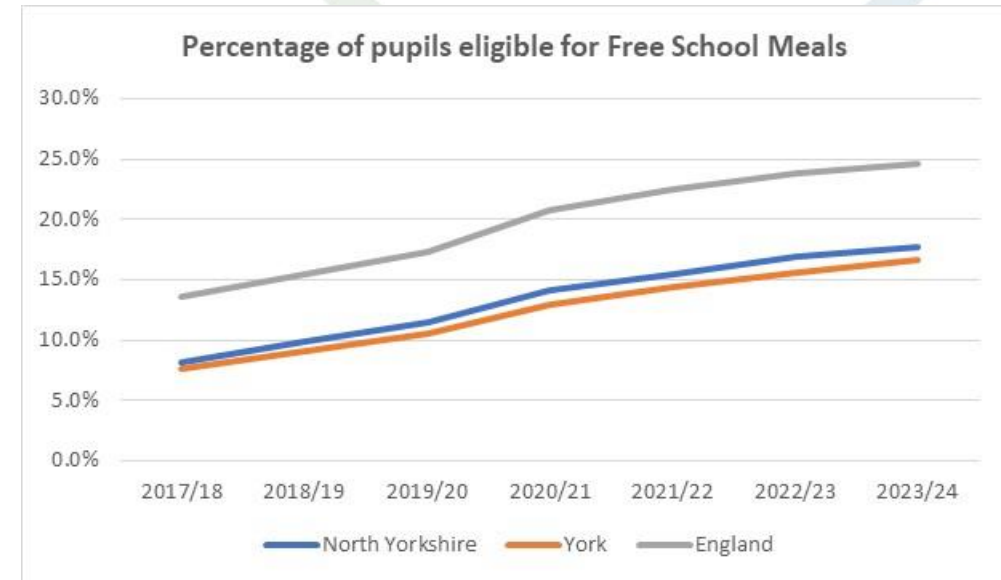
Food vulnerability index
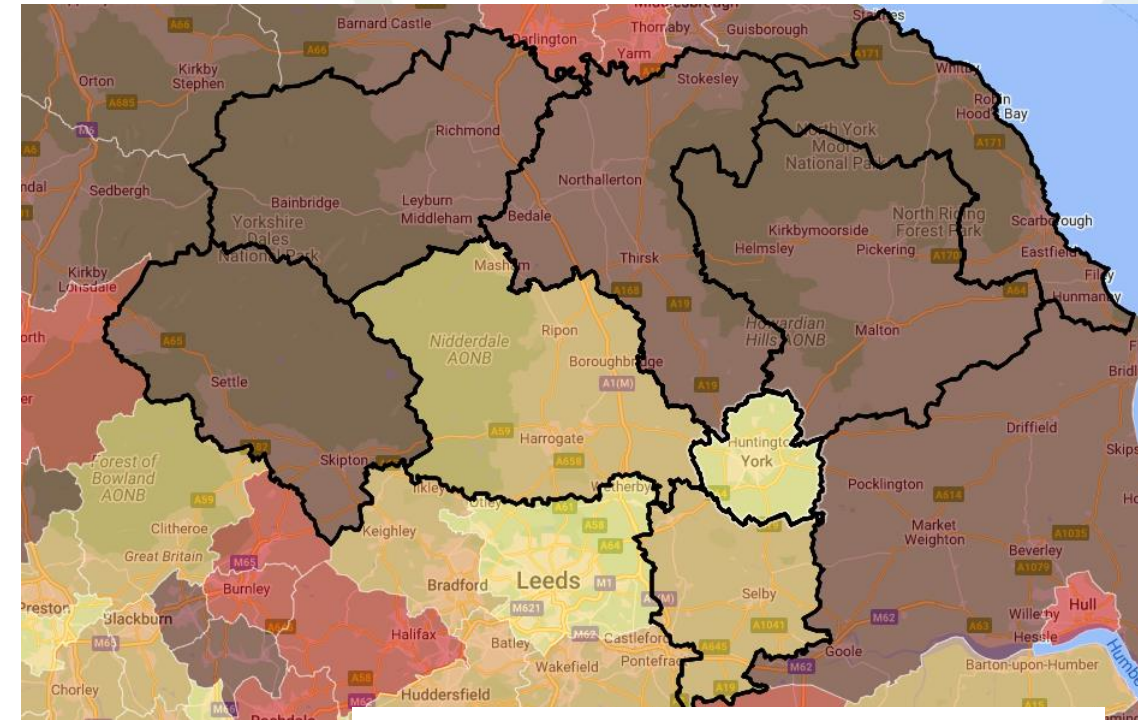
Food Vulnerability Index (June 2020)

Food vulnerability index combines: Frailty, Living alone, Distance to services, Digital exclusion, Income deprivation, Income Support families, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance families, Income-based Employment and Support Allowance families, Pension Credit (Guarantee) families, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit families not already counted, Universal Credit families where no adult is in 'Working - no requirements' conditionality regime, Asylum seekers in England in receipt of subsistence support, accommodation support, or both.

Higher the score, the higher the need.

Source: British Red Cross

Areas with highest indices:
- North Yorkshire: Filey (465.57), Weaponness & Ramshill (404.1), Falsgrave & Stepney (392.5), Northallerton South (389.18), Woodlands (386.65), Upper Dales (351.88), Northallerton North & Brompton (347.88), Romanby (345.67), Sowerby & Topcliffe (342.23), Pickering (342.09), Leyburn & Middleham (338.45)
- York: Westfield, Chapelfields and Foxwood (283.36)

Food Vulnerability Index Score

The colours on the map show Food vulnerability score (higher is more vulnerable)

Showing all areas at LA level

🟩	83.35 to 155.46
🟨	155.46 to 189.90
🟧	189.90 to 220.43
🟥	220.43 to 250.09
🟫	250.09 to 355.80
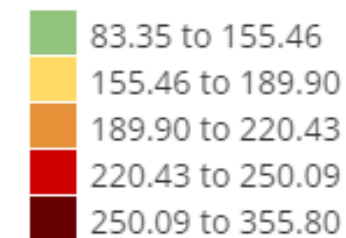
E-food dessert index

E-food Desert Index score

The e-food deserts index measures the extent to which neighbourhoods exhibit characteristics associated with food deserts across four key drivers of groceries accessibility:

- Proximity and density of grocery retail facilities,

- Transport and accessibility,

- Neighbourhood socio-economic and demographic characteristics and

- E-commerce availability and propensity.

A higher score denotes more evidence of food desert-like characteristics.

Areas with highest indices:

- North Yorkshire: Upper Dales (59.54), Hunmanby & Sherburn (54.0), Helmsley & Sinnington (52.5), Wharfedale (51.76)

- York: Westfield, Chapelfields and Foxwood (29.63)

E-food Desert Index (EFDI) score (2020)
North Yorkshire and York LSOAs

Higher score = more food desert-like characteristics

|	
■	51.3 to 63.1
■	39.6 to 51.3
■	27.9 to 39.6
■	16.2 to 27.9
■	4.5 to 16.2
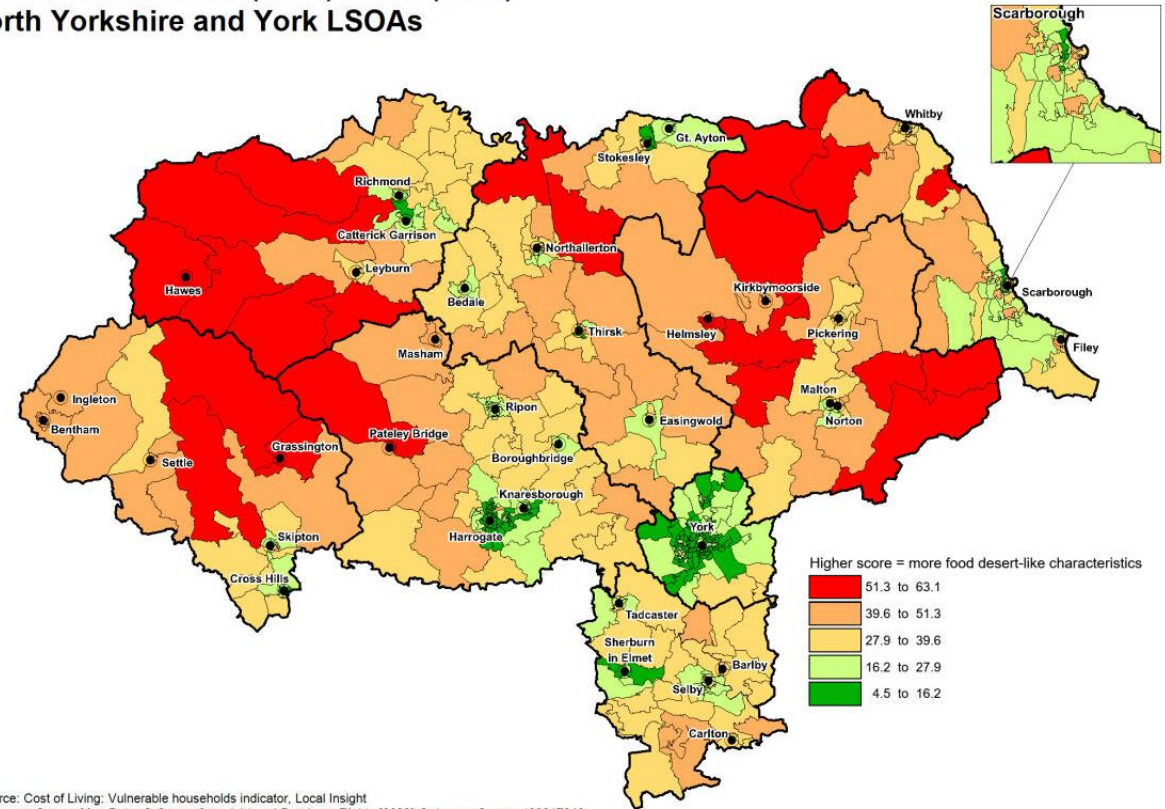
Notes
1. Source: Cost of Living: Vulnerable households indicator, Local Insight
2. Ordnance Survey Map Data: © Crown Copyright and Database Rights [2023] Ordnance Survey 100017946
3. Compilation & Analysis; Public Health Intelligence team, NYC

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Priority Places for Food Index

Priority Places for Food Index 2023

The bar chart below shows the ranks given in the Priority Places for Food Index, where a lower rank indicates higher food insecurity. It is constructed using open data to capture complex and multidimensional aspects of food insecurity and was developed in response to the 2022 cost of living crisis which has seen many communities under severe financial pressure and at an increased risk of food insecurity.

North Yorkshire has a Priority Places for Food Index rank of 23,590. This means that North Yorkshire has lower levels of food insecurity than Yorkshire and The Humber (13,396) and lower levels of food insecurity than England (16,975).

Priority Places for Food Index (Rank)

■ North Yorkshire   ■ Yorkshire and The Humber   ■ England

Rank

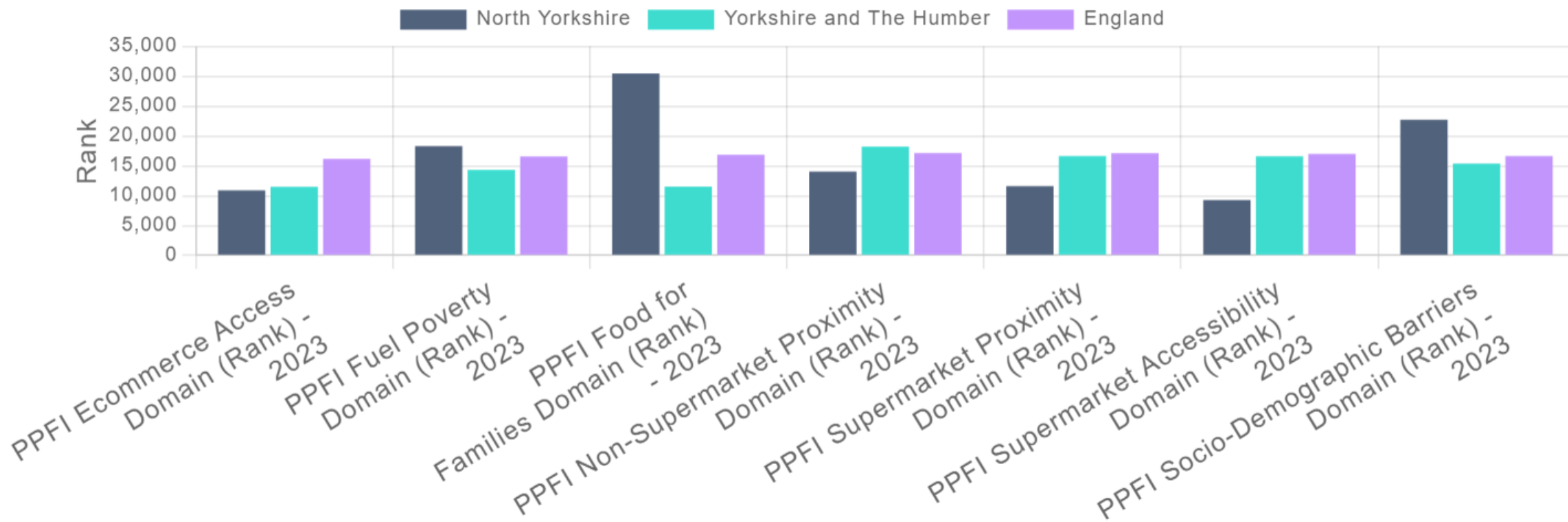Priority Places for Food Index (Rank) - 2023
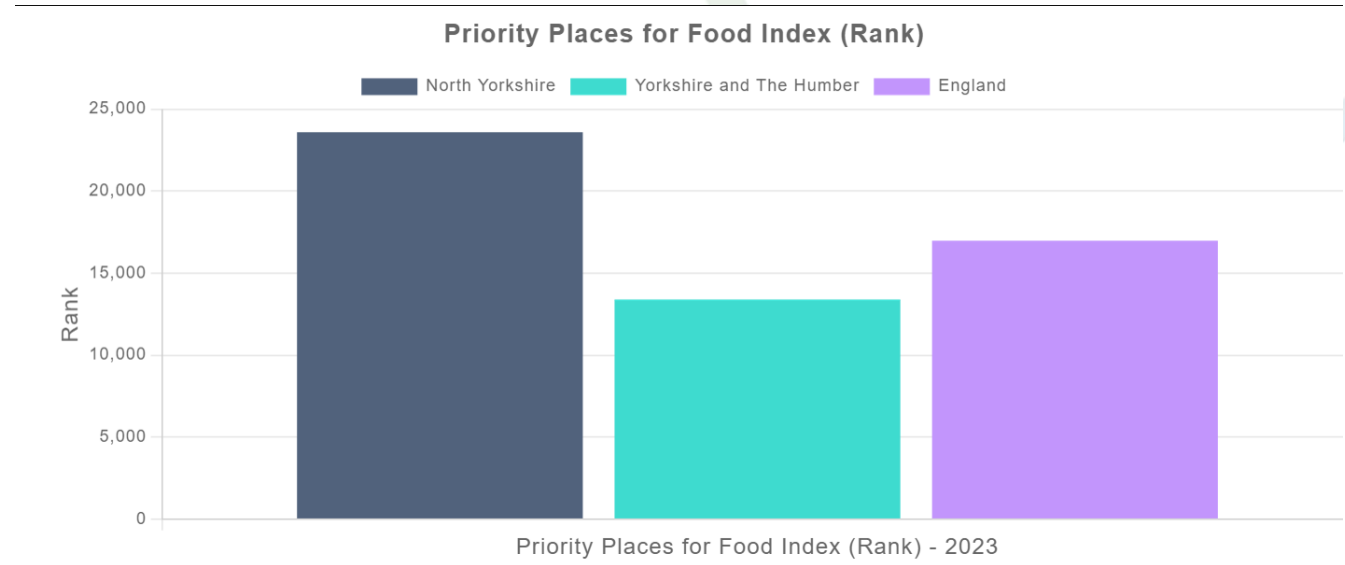
The Priority Places for Food Index has seven sub-domains. A lower rank indicates higher insecurity:

- Ecommerce Access - includes online groceries availability and propensity to shop online.

- Fuel Poverty - includes the proportion of households in fuel poverty and prepayment meter prevalence.

- Food for Families - includes children in relative low-income families, healthy start voucher uptake and distance to the nearest food bank.

- Non-Supermarket Proximity - includes distance to nearest non-supermarket retail food store, count of non-supermarket retail food stores within 1km, average distance to nearest market and average count of markets within 1km.

- Supermarket Proximity - includes the average distance to nearest large grocery store and the average count of stores within 1km.

- Supermarket Accessibility - includes the average travel distance to nearest large grocery store and accessibility via public transport.

- Socio-Demographic Barriers - includes the proportion of the population experiencing income deprivation and the proportion of the population with no car access.

Priority Places for Food Index

Priority Places for Food Index Sub-Domains

Legend: North Yorkshire | Yorkshire and The Humber | England

Y-axis: Rank (0 to 35,000)

Categories:
- PPFI Ecommerce Access Domain (Rank) - 2023
- PPFI Fuel Poverty Domain (Rank) - 2023
- PPFI Food for Families Domain (Rank) - 2023
- PPFI Non-Supermarket Proximity Domain (Rank) - 2023
- PPFI Supermarket Proximity Domain (Rank) - 2023
- PPFI Supermarket Accessibility Domain (Rank) - 2023
- PPFI Socio-Demographic Barriers Domain (Rank) - 2023

Poverty

Poverty higher in the following circumstances:
- Social rented and private rented housing
- Disability
- Informal carers
- Three or more children than smaller families
- Ethnicity

This affects
- life expectancy
- Mental health
- Heath status (poor health)
- Parental income, impact on young people educational attain

UK Poverty 2023: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | JRF

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How to measure food insecurity

Food banks
- Cuts to Central welfare, higher rates of unemployment, higher rates of benefits sanctions leads to more food banks opening.

- However, cannot measure based on food location to food banks based on community resources and social networks not based on population need

- Not all people who are insecure use food banks.

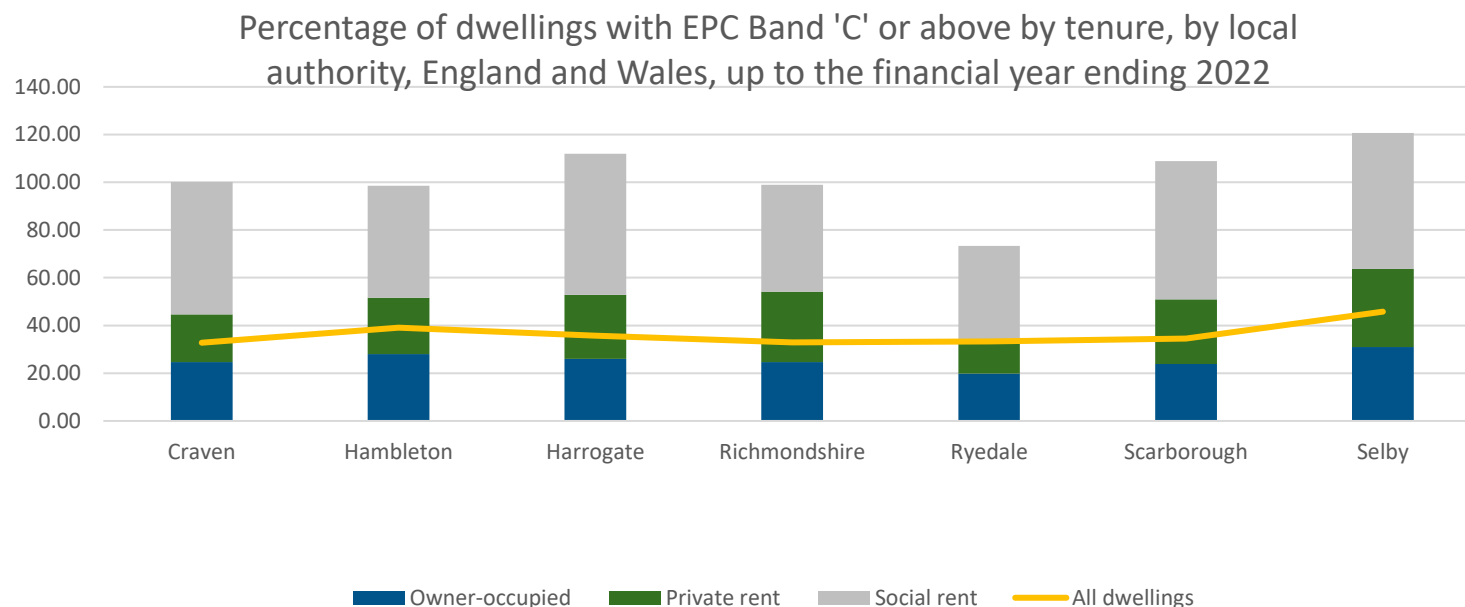Household food insecurity in the UK: 4. Introduction | Food Standards Agency

Prevalence of food security in the UK measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale | Journal of Public Health | Oxford Academic (oup.com)

Identifying populations and areas at greatest risk of household food insecurity in England - ScienceDirect

Fuel Poverty

Percentage of dwellings with EPC Band 'C' or above by tenure, by local authority, England and Wales, up to the financial year ending 2022

Legend: Owner-occupied, Private rent, Social rent, All dwellings

X-axis: Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough, Selby

Ryedale has the lowest percentage of dwellings with EPC Band 'C' or above. Lower than EPC band C in households indicates more likely to have fuel poverty.
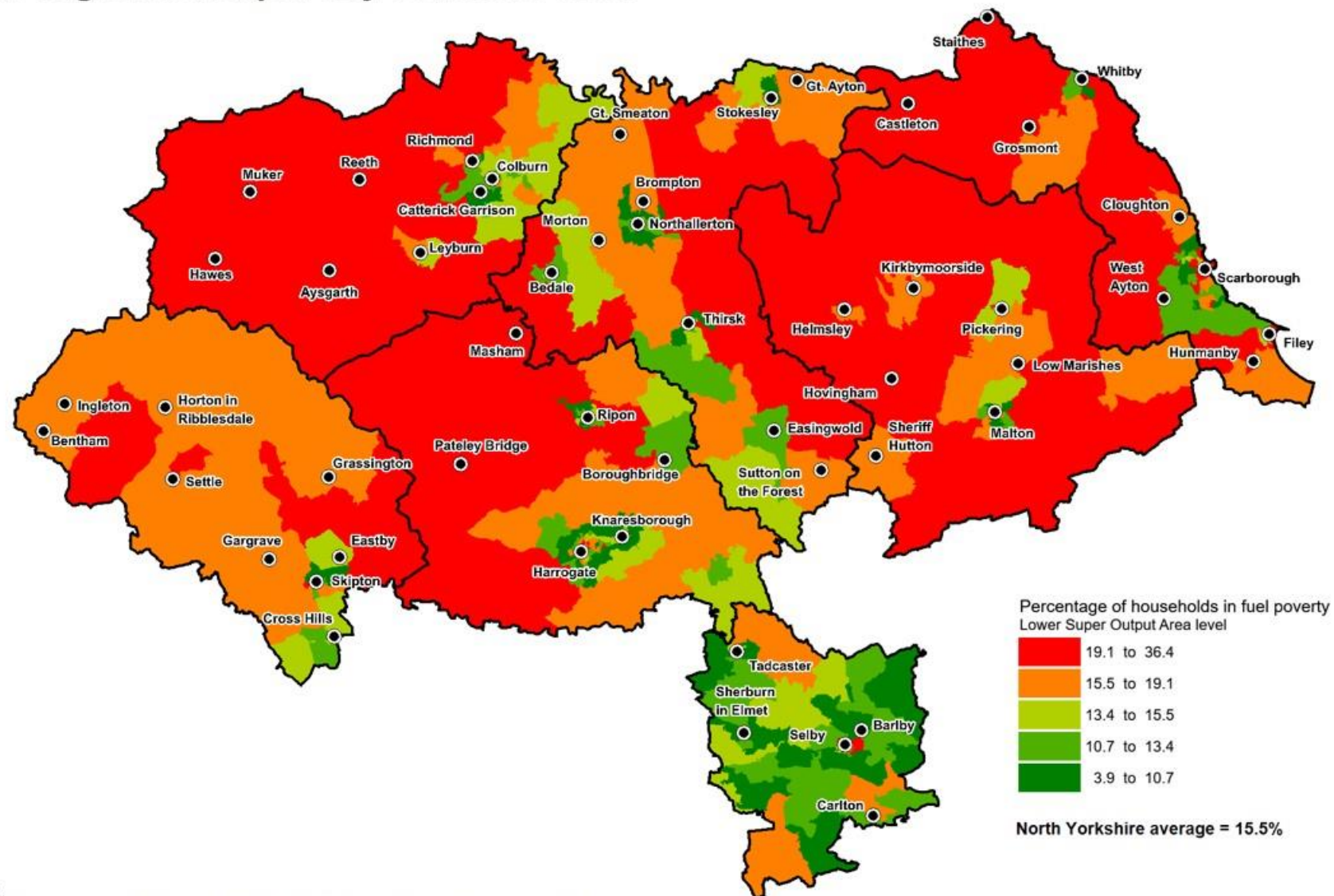
Energy efficiency of Housing, England and Wales, middle layer super output area - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Energy efficiency of Housing, England and Wales, local authority districts - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics LILEE Report 2023 (2022 data) (publishing.service.gov.uk)

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Sub-regional fuel poverty estimates 2021

Percentage of households in fuel poverty
Lower Super Output Area level

⬛	19.1 to 36.4
⬛	15.5 to 19.1
⬛	13.4 to 15.5
⬛	10.7 to 13.4
⬛	3.9 to 10.7

North Yorkshire average = 15.5%

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Notes
1. Source: Sub-regional Fuel Poverty Estimates 2021, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
2. Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) fuel poverty definition
3. Ordnance Survey Map Data: © Crown Copyright and Database Rights [2024] Ordnance Survey AC0000825864
4. Compilation & Analysis; Strategy and Performance Team, NYC, 2024

Fuel Poverty
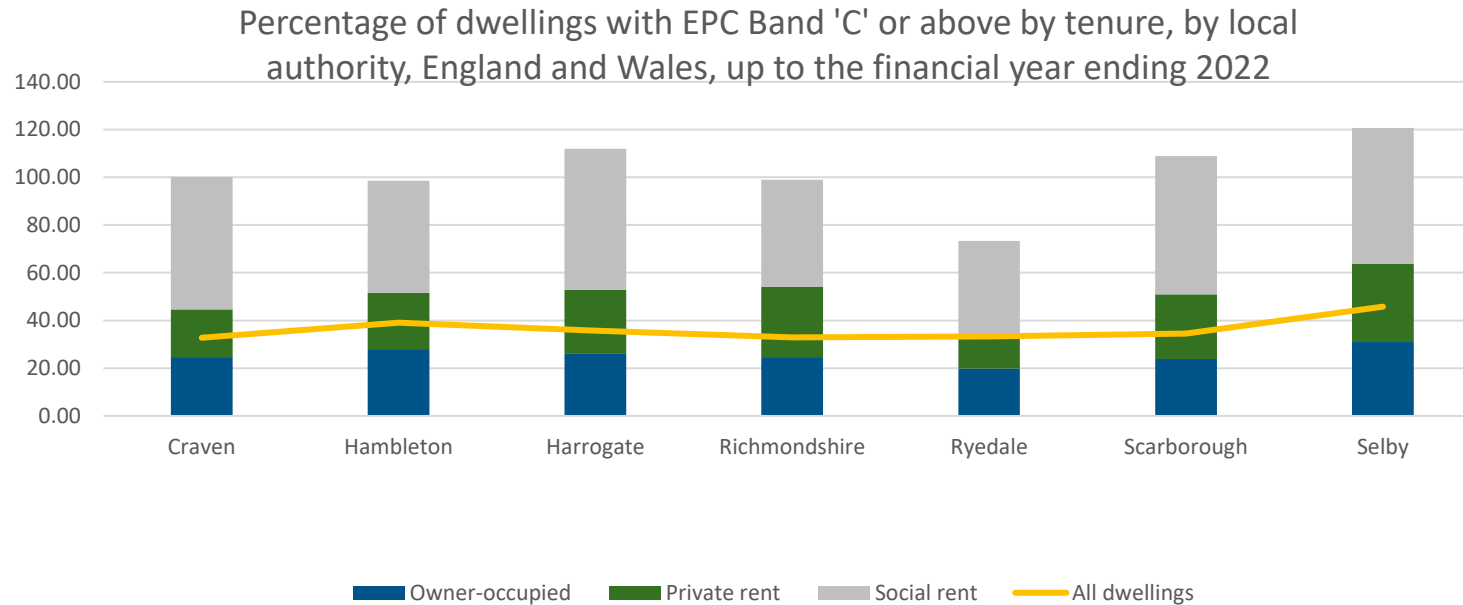
Percentage of dwellings with EPC Band 'C' or above by tenure, by local authority, England and Wales, up to the financial year ending 2022

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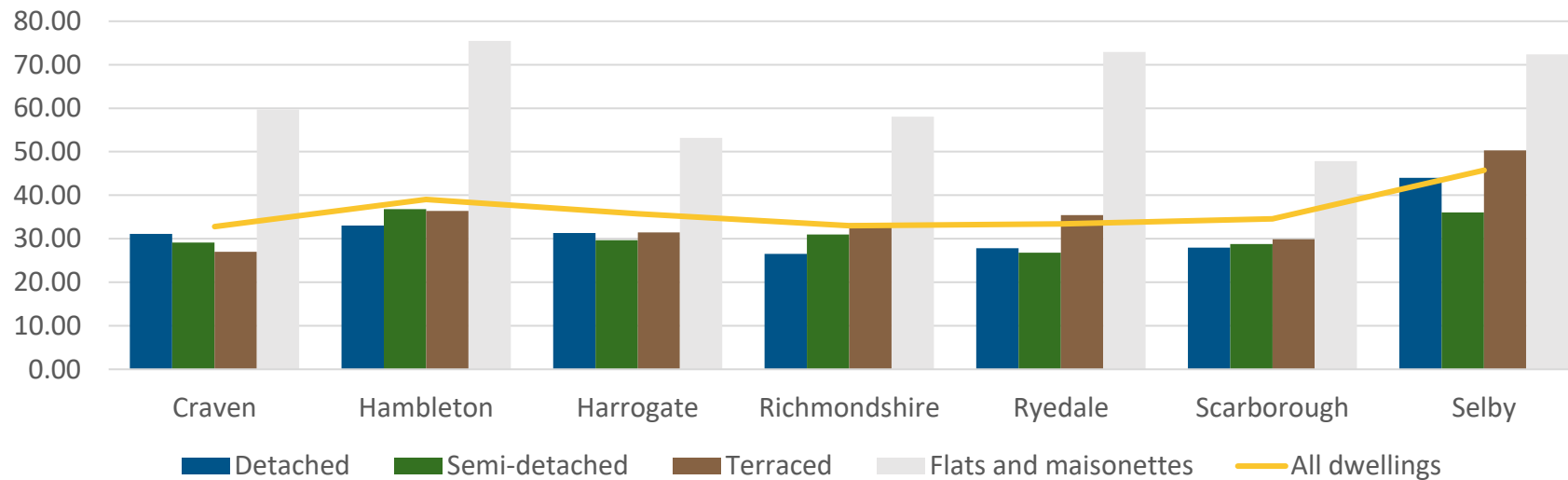
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Energy efficiency of Housing, England and Wales, middle layer super output area - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Energy efficiency of Housing, England and Wales, local authority districts - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Annual fuel poverty statistics report 2024 (2023 data)

Percentage of dwellings with EPC band 'C' or above by tenure, by local authority, England and Wales up to financial year ending 2022.
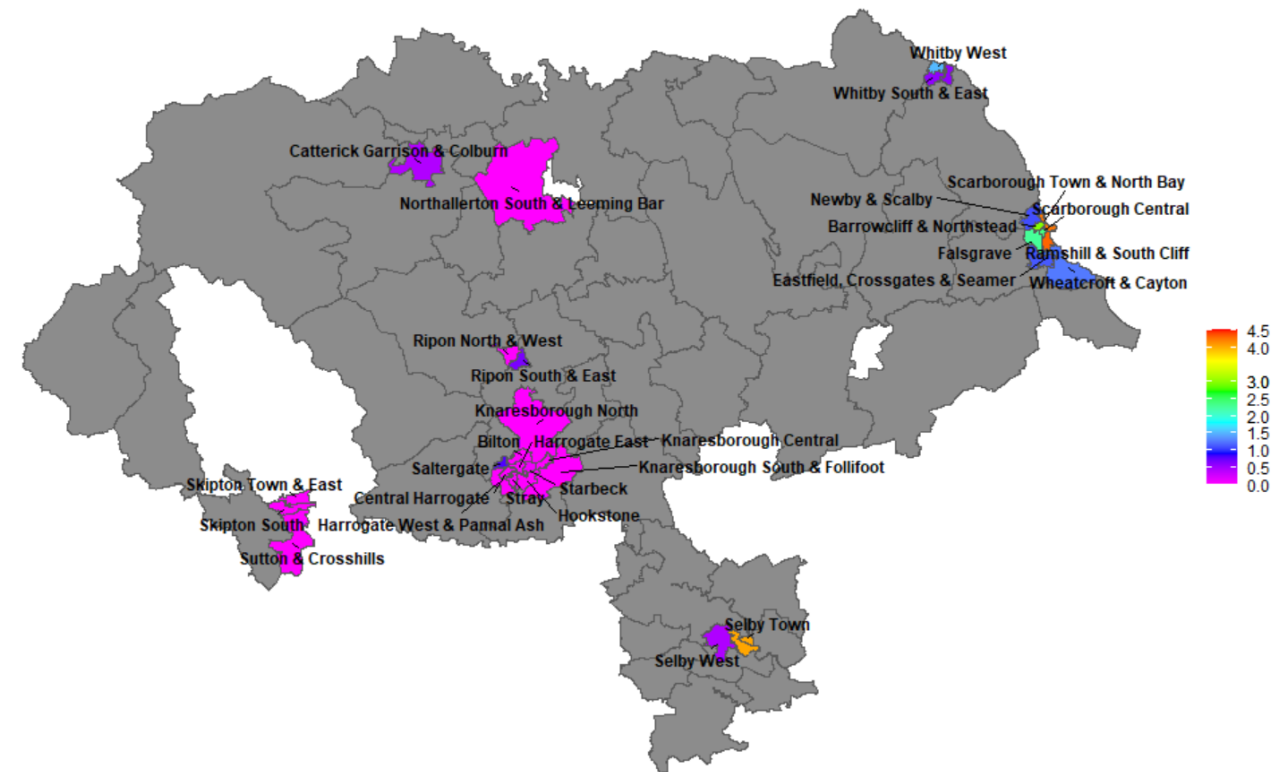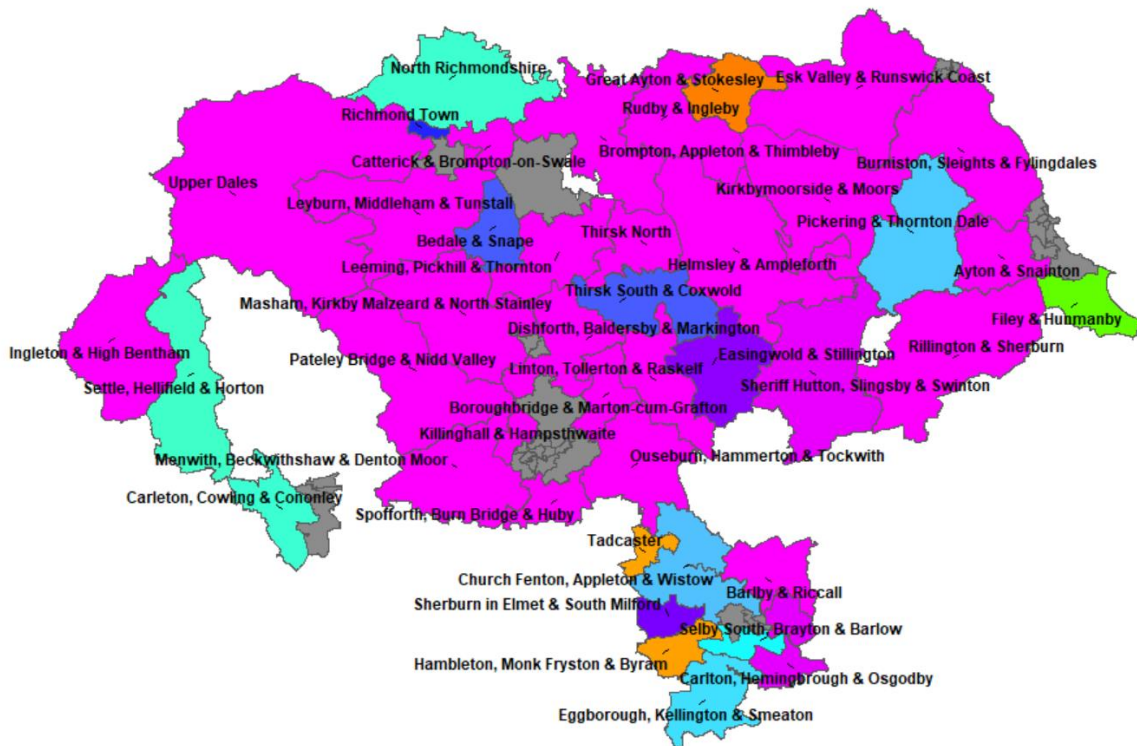
Craven has the lowest percentage all dwellings with EPC band 'C' or above. Terrached houses are more likely to have lowest than EPC band 'C' and so likely to be fuel poor.

Economic activity (low-level) status those aged 16 years and above, by local authority (Census 2021)
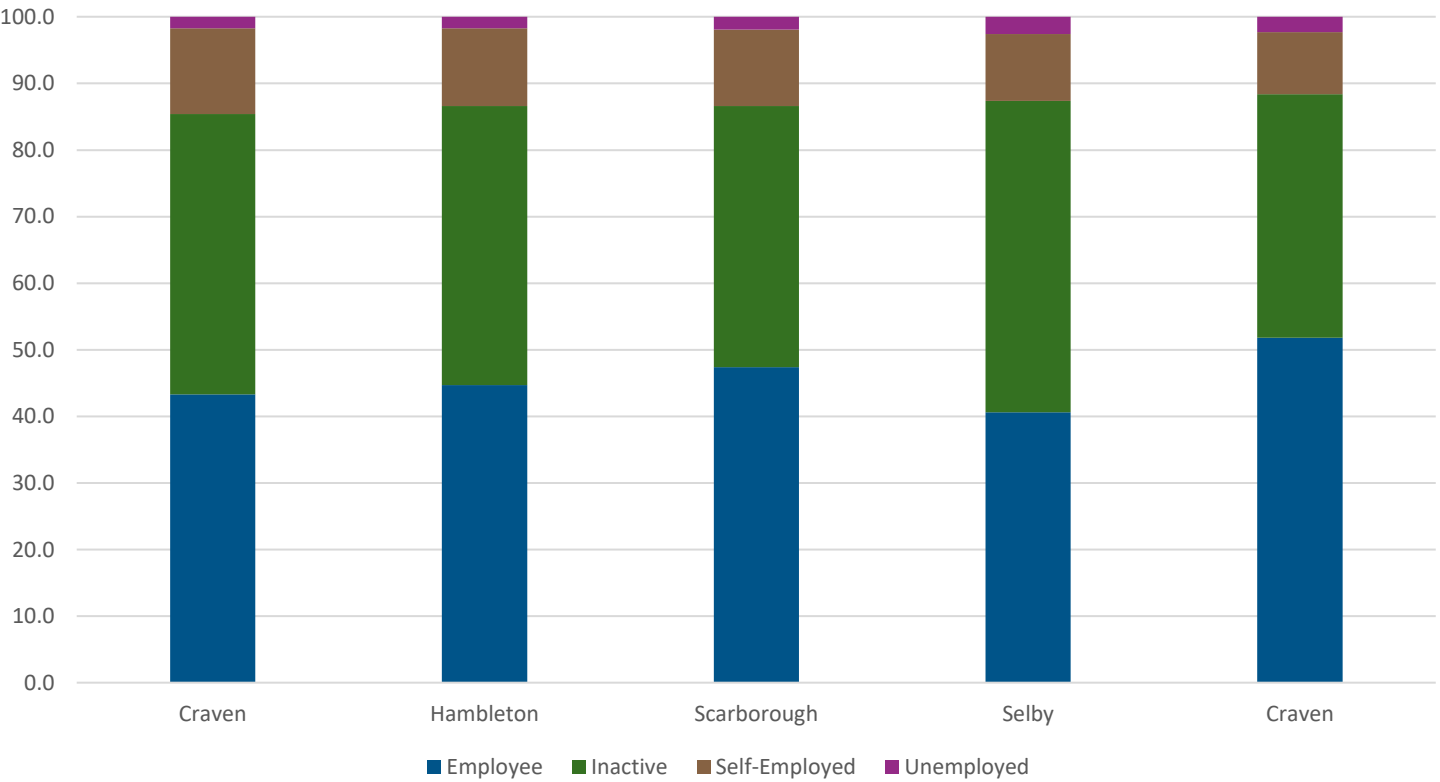
Selby has more inactive than the rest of North Yorkshire

Employee ■ Inactive ■ Self-Employed ■ Unemployed

Craven   Hambleton   Scarborough   Selby   Craven

[Employment in local authorities, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Long-Term Unemployment- rate per 1,000 working age population

Long-Term Unemployment- rate per 1,000 working age population

Long-term employment rate per 1,000 working age population (2021 data). Rural versus Urban. In Rural areas, Tadcaster, Hambleton, Monk Fryston and Byram, Great Ayton and Stokesley have the highest long-term unemployment rate per 1,000 working age population. Whereas, in Urban areas Selby and Scarbough Central have the highest long term unemployment rate per 1,000 working age population.

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