



GALLUP PAKISTAN ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2024

Farm Size Distribution in Pakistan



PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Agricultural Census 2024

Farm Census 2024: 57% of Holdings Under 2 Hectares, Balochistan Ten Times Larger than KP

Islamabad, August 28th, 2025

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is examining the irrigation methods and cropping patterns revealed in the *7th Agricultural Census 2024*, the country's first **Integrated Digital Count** of agriculture, conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan's Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: *"The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as [PSLM](#), [Labour Force Survey](#), and [Economic Survey reports](#) as well as [National Census Reports](#) and [Election Commission Data sets](#). The current series is using the [Global Burden of Disease dataset](#), which provides a variety of health-related statistics. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan."*

What data points this current edition covers:

This edition of the press release covers the national distribution of farms by tenure type, illustrating how ownership dominates while tenancy has declined. It highlights provincial differences in the prevalence of tenant farming, showing under-representation in Punjab and over-representation in Sindh. Finally, it examines structural patterns in land tenure, underscoring the policy implications for equity, productivity, and provincial agricultural dynamics.

GALLUP PAKISTAN

ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2024

Small Farm Dominate

37.41% of all agricultural holdings are below 1 hectare in size, and nearly **57%** are below 2 hectares.



Below one
hectare in size
37.41%



Below two
hectare in size
57%

3.92 Hectares

Pakistan's
average farm size
is 3.92 hectares.

Provincial Variation

Average farm size in
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

2.2 ha



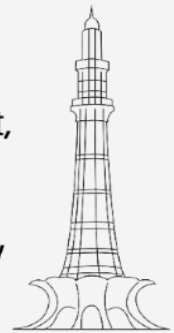
Average farm size in
Balochistan

10.32ha



Punjab's Profile

While Punjab has the highest agricultural output, it also has the highest concentration of small farms, with over half below 2 hectares.



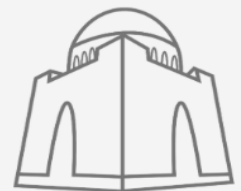
Balochistan's Contrast:

Balochistan has fewer farms overall but the largest average size, with **10.32 ha**, and a higher share of holdings over 10 hectares.



Sindh's Middle Ground:

Sindh shows a balanced profile but with a notable concentration of medium sized farms (**5-10 ha**).



KP's Land Fragmentation:

KP's small average size reflects land fragmentation, posing mechanization and efficiency challenges.

Key Findings:

1. **Small Farms Dominate:** 37.41% of all agricultural holdings are below 1 hectare in size, and nearly 57% are below 2 hectares.
2. **Average Farm Size Nationally:** Pakistan's average farm size is 3.92 hectares.
3. **Provincial Variation:** Average farm sizes range from just 2.20 ha in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to 10.32 ha in Balochistan.
4. **Punjab's Profile:** While Punjab has the highest agricultural output, it also has the highest concentration of small farms, with over half below 2 hectares.
5. **Balochistan's Contrast:** Balochistan has fewer farms overall but the largest average size, with 10.32 ha, and a higher share of holdings over 10 hectares.
6. **Sindh's Middle Ground:** Sindh shows a balanced profile but with a notable concentration of medium-sized farms (5–10 ha).
7. **KP's Land Fragmentation:** KP's small average size reflects land fragmentation, posing mechanization and efficiency challenges.

1. Trend Analysis (2024 vs 2010)

i. Small Farms (Under 1 ha) Are Fewer Than in 2010:

- The share of very small holdings (under 1.0 hectare) declined from 47% in 2010 to 26% in 2024 (national).

ii. Average Farm Size Has Fallen Since 2010:

- Average farm size decreased from 6.4 acres in 2010 to 5.1 acres in 2024. This likely reflects ongoing subdivision of landholdings over time.

iii. National Distribution in 2024:

- 26% under 1.0 ha; 35% between 1.0–<2.5 ha; 19% between 2.5–<5.0 ha; 10% between 5.0–<7.5 ha; 7% between 7.5–<12.5 ha; 3% between 12.5–<25 ha; 1% between 25–<50 ha; <1% at 50–<100 ha; <1% at ≥ 100 ha (Pakistan, 2024).

Note on comparability: 2010 size classes differ from 2024 (e.g., 2010 uses 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 40, 60 ha thresholds). For strict trend comparisons, we show common indicators only (e.g., share under 1.0 ha; average farm size).

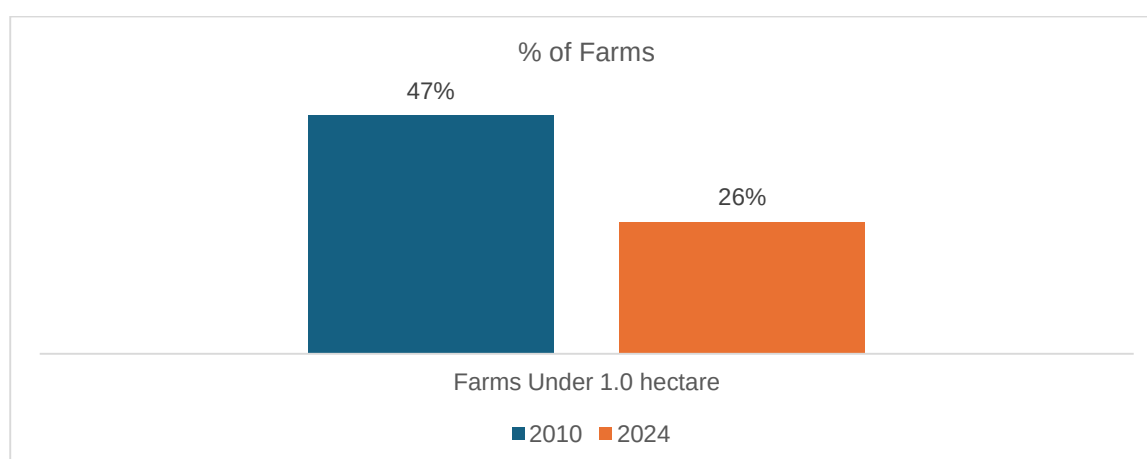


Figure A. Farms under 1.0 hectare: 2010 vs 2024 (percent of farms). Source: PBS Agricultural Census 2010 (Table 1.3); PBS Agricultural Census 2024 Main Findings, Annex 1.

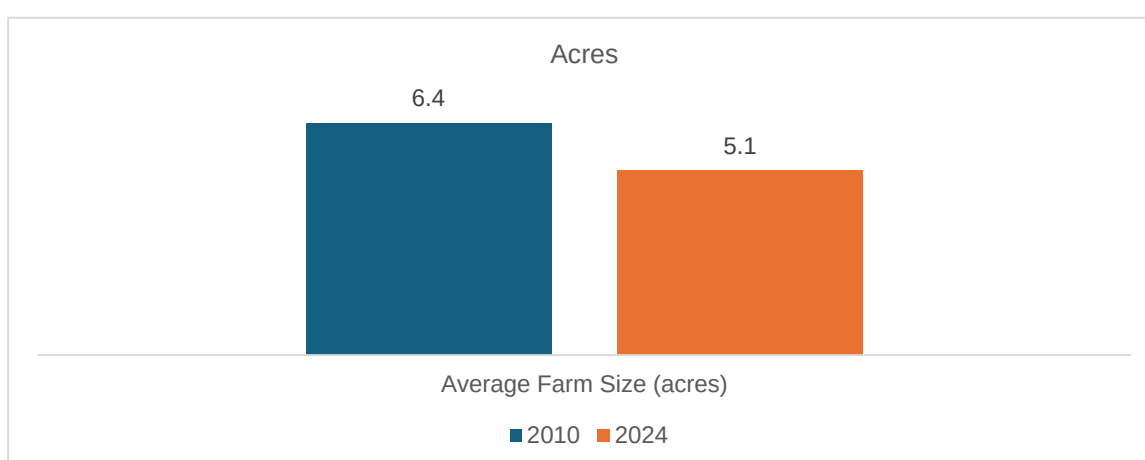
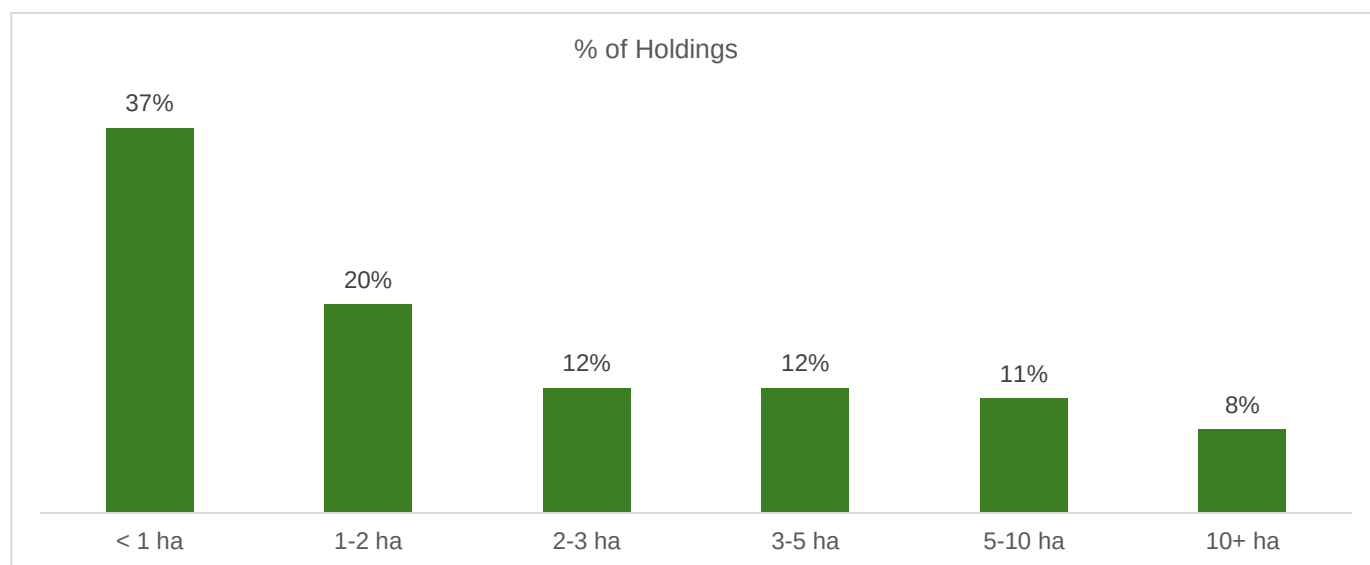


Figure B. Average farm size (acres): 2010 vs 2024. Source: PBS Agricultural Census 2010 (At a Glance); PBS Agricultural Census 2024 Main Findings.

2. National Farm Size Distribution

Smallholder agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's rural economy. The census reveals that more than one-third (37.41%) of all farms are smaller than 1 hectare. Farms of 1–2 hectares account for 19.53%, while medium-sized farms (3–10 ha) collectively make up about 23.21% of holdings. Only 8.20% of farms exceed 10 hectares.



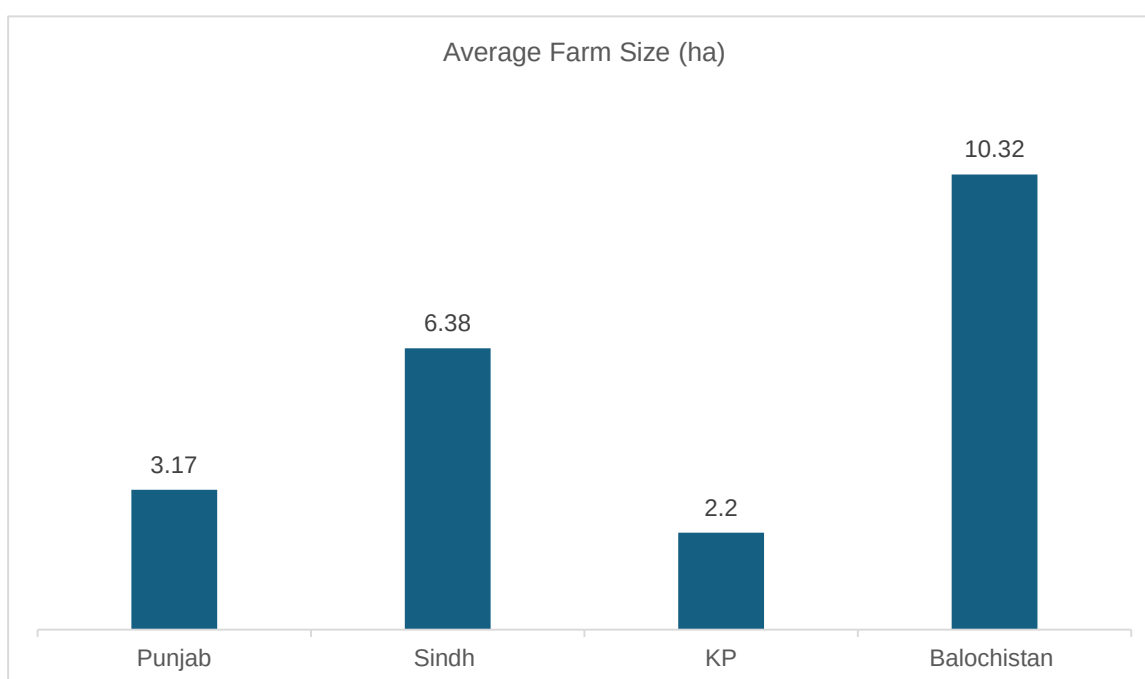
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 (Main Findings Report)

3. Provincial Patterns in Farm Size

The average farm size varies sharply across provinces:

- **Punjab:** 3.17 ha
- **Sindh:** 6.38 ha
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** 2.20 ha
- **Balochistan:** 10.32 ha

Balochistan's large farm sizes reflect its sparse population and extensive tracts of uncultivated or semi-cultivated land, while KP's small farms underscore the limits of expansion in its mountainous terrain. Sindh's larger average size compared to Punjab enables more mechanized farming, though concentration of land ownership remains a challenge.



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 (Main Findings Report)

4. Policy Implementations

The findings underscore the urgent need for policies that address both land fragmentation and provincial disparities in tenure patterns. **Voluntary land consolidation programs** should be promoted in high-fragmentation areas to improve efficiency, while **cooperative mechanization schemes**—such as shared machinery pools—can support smallholders who lack capital for individual investment. At the same time, governments should design **targeted subsidies and extension services** tailored to farm size profiles, ensuring that smaller farms are not disadvantaged. Finally, interventions must be **provincially tailored**: in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, policies should prioritize mechanization support to address fragmented holdings, while in Balochistan, the focus should be on improved water management and rangeland systems. Together, these measures would strengthen equity, productivity, and resilience in Pakistan's farming sector.

About the Agriculture Census

The Agriculture Census is Pakistan's most comprehensive and authoritative statistical exercise on farming, land use, and agricultural resources. Conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), it provides policymakers, researchers, and the public with a detailed snapshot of the structure of agriculture across the country. The Census gathers information directly from farming households and institutions, covering critical aspects such as land ownership and tenancy, operational holdings, irrigation practices, cropping patterns, machinery use, livestock, and farm labor.

The 2024 Agriculture Census continues a series of national exercises carried out in earlier decades (including 1960, 1972, 1980, 1990, and 2010), which together create a unique long-term dataset for understanding the evolution of Pakistan's agriculture sector. The Census serves multiple purposes: it provides baseline data for agricultural planning and development; supports evidence-based policy interventions on food security, irrigation, and rural livelihoods; and enables monitoring of progress toward national and international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This latest round represents an important milestone, as it not only updates the figures after more than a decade but also incorporates methodological improvements. Advances in digital data collection, geographic information systems, and field validation have allowed for more reliable and timely results. The Census thus provides insights not only into how agriculture has changed since 2010 but also into the emerging challenges and opportunities facing farmers today — from climate adaptation to mechanization, diversification, and market access.

Ultimately, the Agriculture Census stands as the foundation for agricultural statistics in Pakistan. Its findings guide ministries and provincial departments in planning irrigation schemes, rural development projects, and farmer support programs. They also serve as a valuable reference for academics, investors, and development partners seeking to understand Pakistan's agrarian economy. By documenting both continuity and change in farm structures, irrigation methods, and cropping practices, the Census underscores the vital role of agriculture in the country's economy and society.

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand the Big Data Analysis project. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

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