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Holmfirth beats Leeds, Sheffield and York in Yorkshire coffee shop study

Independent coffee shops in Holmfirth top a new 22-town Google reviews ranking; local independents also outscore national chains.

Holmfirth has come out on top of a Yorkshire-wide ranking of independent coffee shops, beating Leeds, Sheffield and York in a new study of Google reviews.

Halifax marketing business **Halizona** analysed **646 independent coffee shops** across 63 Yorkshire towns and cities. Of the 22 places with at least 10 qualifying shops, Holmfirth ranked first, with an average Google rating of **4.82 stars** from 10 coffee shops.

Horsforth was second on 4.78, with Shipley and Leeds sharing third place on 4.75. Leeds was the highest-rated city and had the most qualifying independent coffee shops in the study, with 51.

In Holmfirth, 82% of the 2,580 reviews for qualifying shops gave five stars. The Archive Cafe Bistro & Bar was the town's highest-rated coffee shop with at least 50 reviews, at 4.9 stars from 436 reviews.

Halifax, where Halizona is based, shared tenth place with Whitby on 4.68. Sheffield was joint eighth (4.69), Hull thirteenth (4.65), York sixteenth (4.62) and Bradford twenty-second (4.49).

Across the study, independent coffee shops averaged **4.66 stars**, compared with **4.13 for 231 chain branches**. Independents had the higher average in every town where both appeared.

> David Spivey, founder of Halizona, said: “A lot of business in Yorkshire gets done over a coffee. We meet clients in coffee shops all the time and check the reviews before choosing one. We wanted to see which towns came out best. **If you run a coffee shop or any other business, your reviews are your shop window.**”

Full results, original research and methodology: https://halizona.com/insights/yorkshire-coffee-towns/

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Figures from Google Maps data retrieved via DataForSEO on 11 November 2026. Ratings are averages of business ratings, not a coffee taste test. Full 22-town table follows on page 2.

FULL RESULTS | 11 NOVEMBER 2026 SNAPSHOT

Where Yorkshire's coffee towns rank

All 22 towns and cities with at least 10 qualifying independent coffee shops. The named business is the highest-rated qualifying shop with at least 50 Google reviews and an address in that town.

Rank	Town / city	Shops	Avg.	Highest-rated qualifying shop (50+ reviews)
1	Holmfirth	10	4.82	The Archive Cafe Bistro & Bar (4.9 / 436 reviews)
2	Horsforth	12	4.78	Drift (5.0 / 55 reviews)
=3	Shipley	17	4.75	gaffé (5.0 / 81 reviews)
=3	Leeds	51	4.75	1977 Leeds (5.0 / 115 reviews)
5	Doncaster	24	4.74	Specs Gonzalez Coffee Shop (5.0 / 59 reviews)
6	Otley	11	4.73	River Cafe, Otley (5.0 / 82 reviews)
7	Barnsley	13	4.70	Belle's Coffee Shop and Tea Rooms (4.9 / 52 reviews)
=8	Sheffield	46	4.69	420 Coffee (5.0 / 121 reviews)
=8	Pudsey	10	4.69	Kova Coffee (5.0 / 74 reviews)
=10	Whitby	13	4.68	Lush Coffee (4.9 / 540 reviews)
=10	Halifax	20	4.68	Dag&Dem Cafe and Bakery (5.0 / 78 reviews)
12	Harrogate	31	4.66	Heal - Coffee, Lifestyle & Gifting (5.0 / 293 reviews)
13	Hull	33	4.65	The Blending Room (5.0 / 73 reviews)
=14	Scarborough	23	4.63	Koda Coffee (4.9 / 301 reviews)
=14	Bridlington	12	4.63	brew & bake (5.0 / 62 reviews)
16	York	37	4.62	Zest Brunch Bar (4.9 / 563 reviews)
17	Huddersfield	22	4.59	Tommy's Lounge (5.0 / 77 reviews)
18	Hebden Bridge	10	4.56	Balance Hebden Bridge (5.0 / 85 reviews)
=19	Wakefield	20	4.55	Nom Bakes & Coffee (5.0 / 59 reviews)
=19	Castleford	11	4.55	RECENT Coffee Roasters (5.0 / 101 reviews)
21	Rotherham	17	4.51	Thorpe Coffee + Kitchen (4.9 / 81 reviews)
22	Bradford	16	4.49	Café Céline (4.7 / 614 reviews)

How to read the results

A town's score is the simple average of the displayed Google ratings of its qualifying independent coffee shops, rounded to two decimals. Tied averages share a rank. Each shop needed at least 20 reviews; towns needed 10 qualifying shops to enter this table. The 41 other places surveyed did not reach that threshold.

National chains and supermarket cafes were compared separately. Figures are a snapshot of Google reviews, not a taste test. Full methodology and town-by-town source details: https://halizona.com/insights/yorkshire-coffee-towns/