Independent Review into Labour Shortages survey

This document contains the labour shortage survey questionnaire. Please note:

- The question numbers are not displayed on screen and may have non-sequential numbering in this document. This is not an error.
- Not all respondents will see all questions. Some questions are displayed depending on responses to previous ones. The display logic is included in this document in blue boxes.
- If you have any questions about the survey, please contact us at: Independent.Labour.Review@defra.gov.uk

Start of Block: Section 1: About your business

Intro Independent Review into Labour Shortages survey

The survey will help the Expert Panel understand some of the challenges being seen within sectors in the scope of this Review. It should take around 15 minutes.

The survey does not collect any personal information. Defra analysts are administering and processing the survey on behalf of the independent Panel. All information collected will be stored securely, anonymised and collated in a report such that both businesses and individuals cannot be identified. The data is not used for monitoring compliance with regard to worker immigration status.

By starting the survey, this will be taken as an indication that you give your consent for your responses to be used in this research. If you have questions about the survey, or need further assistance accessing it, please contact: lndependent.Labour.Review@defra.qov.uk

Part 1 intro *Part 1: About your business*

) <i>1.3</i> In which select all tha	sectors of the food industry does your business operate? It apply)
	Farming: Pigs (1)
	Farming: Eggs (2)
	Farming: Poultry (3)
	Farming: Red meat (4)
	Farming: Dairy (5)
	Farming: Arable (6)
(7)	Farming: Edible horticulture (grown in glasshouses or other protected structures)
	Farming: Edible horticulture grown in the open (including tunnels) (8)
	Processing: Meat (9)
	Processing: Dairy (10)
	Processing: Egg packing (11)
	Processing: Seafood (12)
	Processing: Horticulture, eg packing (13)
	Processing: Other (eg mills, oils, sugar) (14)
	Manufacturing: Food (15)
	Manufacturing: Non-alcoholic Drink (16)
(17)	Service support to farming and food businesses (please describe the service)
	Other (please specify) (18)

If In which sectors of the food industry does your business operate?(select all that apply) = Farming: Edible horticulture (grown in glasshouses or other protected structures)

Or In which sectors of the food industry does your business operate?(select all that apply) = Farming: Edible horticulture grown in the open (including tunnels)

Q1.4 In which (select all that	n horticulture sectors does your business operate? at apply)
	Field Vegetables (including roots, onions and potatoes) (1)
	Mushrooms (2)
	Protected Vegetables (3)
	Soft Fruit / Small Fruit (4)
	Top Fruit/ Orchard Fruit / Tree Fruit / Stone Fruit (5)
	Other (6)

Q1.5 In which (select all tha	regions do you operate sites? at apply)
	ENGLAND: North East (1)
	ENGLAND: North West (2)
	ENGLAND: Yorks. & Humber (3)
	ENGLAND: East Midlands (4)
	ENGLAND: West Midlands (5)
	ENGLAND: Eastern (6)
	ENGLAND: South West (7)
	ENGLAND: London (8)
	ENGLAND: South East (excluding London) (9)
	SCOTLAND (10)
	WALES (11)
	NORTHERN IRELAND (12)
	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (13)
	INTERNATIONAL: EU (excluding RoI) (14)
	INTERNATIONAL: Rest of World (15)

Three year logic How long has your business been in operation?	
O Less than three years (1)	
O Three years or more (2)	

workforce. By non-seasonal we mean people employed all year round, on full time or part time contracts, or workers on temporary agency contracts filling non-seasonal roles.				
We will be asking you questions about seasonal workers later.				
If you do not have exact numbers or percentages for the answers, please give your best estimate.				
Q1.8 How many non-seasonal staff does your business currently employ in England?				
O (1)				
O 10-49 (2)				
O 50 - 249 (3)				
O 250-499 (4)				
O 500 - 999 (5)				
O 1000 or more (6)				

Non-season intro We are now going to ask some questions about your non-seasonal

.9 What percentage of your non-seasonal workforce in England are: UK/Irish citizens (1) Have EU settled status (2) Have other settled status (3) Have temporary immigration status (4) Have other immigration status (5)	
.10 What percentage of your non-seasonal workforce in England are: Full time (1)	
Part time (1) Part time (2) Temporary agency workers (3)	
ll/part time text	
II-time: Full-time employment is employment in which a person works a minimum number ours defined as such by their employer.	f
rt-time: A part-time contract is a form of employment that carries fewer hours per week than ull-time job. Workers are commonly considered to be part-time if they work fewer than 40 urs per week.	1
mporary Agency Worker: An agency worker is someone who has a contract with an agend works temporarily for an employer.	;у

01 12	≥ What	nercentage	of vou	r non-seasonal	l workforce in	Fnoland ar	۵.
Q1.12	i vviiai	percentage	OI YOU	i iiuii-s c asuiiai	WOINIOIC C III	i Liigiaiiu ai	◡.

	Age 16 - 21 (1)	22-49 (2)	50-54 (3)	55-59 (4)	60-64 (5)	65+ (6)
Male (1)						
Female (2)						
Other/unknown (3)						

If How long has your business been in operation? = Three years or more

Q1.13 Compared to three years ago, what is the percentage change (positive or negative, if
any) in your:
Average wage (1)
Overall wage bill (2)

End of Block: Section 1: About your business

Start of Block: Section 2: Your non-seasonal labour needs

Part 2 banner Part 2: Your non-seasonal worker recruitment needs

We are now going to ask you about your recruitment needs for non-seasonal staff, i.e. people employed all year round, on full time, part time or temporary agency contracts.
If you do not have exact numbers or percentages for the answers, please give your best estimate.
Vacancies non-season How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England?
vacancies (6)
Display This Question:
If How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England? [vacancies] > 0
Q2.3 Of your non-seasonal vacancies in England, how many are:
Full time (1) Part Time (2)
Full-time: Full-time employment is employment in which a person works a minimum number of hours defined as such by their employer. Part-time: A part-time contract is a form of employment that carries fewer hours per week than a full-time job. Workers are commonly considered to be part-time if they work fewer than 40 hours per week.

Display This Question:
If How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England? [vacancies] > 0
Q2.5 Of your non-seasonal vacancies in England, how many are you covering with agency staff?
Full time (1)
Part time (2)
i ait time (2)
Full/part time text Full-time: Full-time employment is employment in which a person works a minimum number of hours defined as such by their employer. Part-time: A part-time contract is a form of employment that carries fewer hours per week than a full-time job. Workers are commonly considered to be part-time if they work fewer than 40 hours per week.
Display This Question:
If How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England? [vacancies] > 0 Q2.7 How many of your non-seasonal vacancies in England are:

_____ Backfilling existing positions (1) _____ Newly created positions (2)

If How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England? [vacancies] > 0

Q2.8 How many of your non-seasonal vacancies in England are business critical? (where unfilled roles would have significant impact on the operation of the business) ——————————————————————————————————
Skill level text
Highly-skilled: Degree level and above e.g. Engineers, Directors etc. (RQF level 6 and above) Skilled: Requiring a degree & experience e.g. Production / Operations / HR Managers, (RQF level 6)
Semi-skilled: Requiring experience & training e.g. Skilled trades (RQF 3-5)
Lower-skilled: Requiring some training/experience e.g. Process operative, skilled field worker
(RQF 2) Unskilled: Requiring minimal training/experience, e.g. Elementary roles, picking, packing etc.
(below RQF 2)
Display This Quastion:
Display This Question:
If How long has your business been in operation? = Less than three years
Q2.10 What was the percentage vacancy rate in England for your non-seasonal staff : This year (1)

Q2.11 What was your non-seasonal staff turnover rate (%) in England:			
	This year (1)		
Highly-skilled roles (1)			
Skilled roles (2)			
Semi-skilled roles (3)			
Lower-skilled roles (4)			
Unskilled roles (5)			

Display This Question:				
Q2.12 What was the percentage vacancy rate in England for your non-seasonal staff: This year (1) Three years ago (2)				
Display This Question:				
If How long has your business	been in operation? = Three years o	r more		
Q2.13 What was your non-seaso	onal staff turnover rate (%) in En	gland:		
	This year (1)	Three years ago (2)		
Highly-skilled roles (1)				
Skilled roles (2)				
Semi-skilled roles (3)				
Lower-skilled roles (4)				
Unskilled roles (5)				
	,			

Q2.14 How long on average do non-seasonal new recruits remain in your business:	
O Less than 3 months (1)	
3 - 6 months (2)	
O 6 months - 1 year (3)	
O 1 - 3 years (4)	
O More than 3 years (5)	
Q2.15 Are there any key reasons for people leaving your business in the last year?	

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1)10	nlav	Inie	ОП	estion:
$\nu \omega$	piay	11110	чu	CGUOII.

If How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England? [vacancies] > 0

Q2.16 How many non-seasonal vacancies in England are you currently trying to fill for these role types?

	Full time (1)	Part time (2)	Temporary agency worker (3)
Management and Directorship (1)			
Administration (including HR, finance, accountancy, legal) (2)			
IT and telecoms (3)			
Media and marketing (4)			
Sales and customer service (5)			
R&D (6)			
Engineering (7)			
Process, plant and machine operatives (8)			
Farm manager/assistant manager (9)			
Skilled trades (10)			
Semi skilled trades (11)			
Elementary (unskilled) occupations (12)			

Job role examples

Examples of Skilled trades may be: Agricultural contractor, Agricultural technician, Farmer, Herd manager, Fishmonger, Butcher

Examples of Process, plant and machine operators may be: Meat Processor, Bakery Assistant, Agricultural machinist, Tractor driver (agriculture)

Examples of Elementary occupations may be: Agricultural worker, Farm labourer, Farm worker, Herdsman, Shepherd, Mushroom picker, Factory worker (packing)

If How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England? [vacancies] > 0

Q2.18 Generally, how easy is it to find suitable candidates to fill the following non-seasonal roles?

	Extremel y difficult (1)	Somewha t difficult (2)	Neithe r easy nor difficul t (3)	Somewha t easy (4)	Extremel y easy (5)	Not applicable/Don 't know (6)
Management and Directorship (1)	0	\circ	0	0	0	0
Administration (including HR, finance, accountancy, legal) (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
IT and telecoms (3)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ
Media and marketing (4)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Sales and customer service (5)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	0	\circ
R&D (6)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Engineering (7)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Process, plant and machine operatives (8)	0	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ
Farm manager/assista nt manager (9) Skilled trades:	0	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ
food preparation (10)	0	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Semi skilled trades (11)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Elementary (unskilled) occupations (12)	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	0

Job role examples

Examples of Skilled trades may be: Agricultural contractor, Agricultural technician, Farmer, Herd manager, Fishmonger, Butcher

Examples of Process, plant and machine operators may be: Meat Processor, Bakery Assistant, Agricultural machinist, Tractor driver (agriculture)

Examples of Elementary occupations may be: Agricultural worker, Farm labourer, Farm worker, Herdsman, Shepherd, Mushroom picker, Factory worker (packing)

Displ	ay ī	This	Ques	tion:

If How many non-seasonal vacancies do you have open currently in England? [vacancies] > 0

Start of Block: Section 3: Seasonal workers

Part 3 intro Part 3: Your seasonal worker recruitment needs

We are now going to ask you about your recruitment needs for seasonal workers , i.e. employment which fluctuates or is restricted according to the season or time of the year. Not restricted to seasonal workers recruited through the seasonal worker visa route.
If you do not have exact numbers or percentages for the answers, please give your best estimate.
Q3.2 Do you recruit seasonal workers in your business?
O No (1)
O Yes (2)
Skip To: End of Block If Do you recruit seasonal workers in your business? = No

Q3.3 During v (select all that	vhich months do you usually require seasonal staff? at apply)
	January (1)
	February (2)
	March (3)
	April (4)
	May (5)
	June (6)
	July (7)
	August (8)
	September (9)
	October (10)
	November (11)
	December (12)

Q3.5 How many seasonal workers in England a these roles?	t your peak seasonal period do you have in
tricac roles:	Seasonal worker (1)
Management and Directorship (1)	
Administration (including HR, finance, accountancy, legal) (2)	
IT and telecoms (3)	
Media and marketing (4)	
Sales and customer service (5)	
R&D (6)	
Engineering (7)	
Process, plant and machine operatives (8)	
Farm manager/assistant manager (9)	
Skilled trades: food preparation (10)	
Semi skilled trades (11)	
Elementary (unskilled) occupations (12)	
Job role examples Examples of Skilled trades may be: Agricultural manager, Fishmonger, Butcher Examples of Process, plant and machine operate Agricultural machinist, Tractor driver (agriculture Examples of Elementary occupations may be: A worker, Herdsman, Shepherd, Mushroom picker	e) gricultural worker, Farm labourer, Farm

	How many seasonal staff in England were you planning to employ in the last 12 staff (1)	months?
	How many seasonal staff in England have you actually employed in last 12 mon staff (1)	ths?
Q3.9 why: –	If you did not employ as many seasonal workers as you planned, please detail the	ne reasons
- -		
End	of Block: Section 3: Seasonal workers	

Start of Block: Section 4: Recruitment strategy

Part 4 intro Part 4: Your recruitment experiences

We are now	going to ask	k about your	recruitment	processes	for all	staff,	both:	seasonal	and	non-
seasonal.										

Q4.2 What methods did you use to recruit staff in England in 2022? (select all that apply)

	UK staff (1)	Non-UK staff (2)
Colleague incentivised referral (1)		
Job Centre (2)		
Online job site (3)		
Employment agency (4)		
Licenced Seasonal Worker visa route operator (5)		
Contact with an FE or HE provider (6)		
Social media (7)		
Job fairs (8)		
Leaflet campaigns (9)		
Word of mouth (10)		
Advertising on own website (11)		
Apprenticeships (12)		
EU Settled Status returners (13)		
Other (please specify) (14)		

Q4.3 Which have been most successful (and why)?	
	
Display This Question:	
If How long has your business been in operation? = Less than three years	
Q4.4 How many apprentices in England, if any: Do you have now (1)	
Display This Question: If How long has your business been in operation? = Three years or more	
Q4.5 How many apprentices in England, if any: Do you have now (1) Did you have three years ago (2)	
Q4.6 Are you licensed to sponsor Skilled Worker visas?	
O No (1)	
○ Yes (2)	
O Don't know (3)	

Q۷	4.7 How frequently, if at all, do you recruit Skilled Worker visa holders in your business?
	Once or twice a month (1)
	Once or twice per quarter (2)
	Once or twice a year (3)
	C Less frequently than once or twice a year (4)
	O Varies too much to say (5)
	Never recruit Skilled Worker visa holders (6)
	O Not applicable (7)

	Q4.8 In 2023, how confident are y	you in yo	our ability	to recruit enough	seasonal staff to:
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	Very confident (1)	Confident (2)	Neutral (3)	Doubtful (4)	Very doubtful (5)	Don't know (6)	Not Applicable (7)
Highly- skilled roles (1)	0	0	\circ	0	\circ	0	0
Skilled roles (2)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Semi- skilled roles (3)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Lower- skilled roles (4)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Unskilled roles (5)	0	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ

Skill level text

Highly-skilled: Degree level and above e.g. Engineers, Directors etc. (RQF level 6 and above) **Skilled:** Requiring a degree & experience e.g. Production / Operations / HR Managers, (RQF level 6)

Semi-skilled: Requiring experience & training e.g. Skilled trades (RQF 3-5)

Lower-skilled: Requiring some training/experience e.g. Process operative, skilled field worker (RQF 2)

Unskilled: Requiring minimal training/experience, e.g. Elementary roles, picking, packing etc. (below RQF 2)

Q4.11 ln 20	23. how con	fident are you	u in vour ab	oility to recru	it enouah n e	on-seasona	al staff to:
	Very confident (1)	Confident (2)	Neutral (3)	Doubtful (4)	Very doubtful (5)	Don't know (6)	Not Applicable (7)
Highly- skilled roles (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skilled roles (2)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Semi- skilled roles (3)	0	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Lower- skilled roles (4)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Unskilled roles (5)	0	0	\circ	0	0	0	0
Skill level text Highly-skilled: Degree level and above e.g. Engineers, Directors etc. (RQF level 6 and above) Skilled: Requiring a degree & experience e.g. Production / Operations / HR Managers, (RQF level 6) Semi-skilled: Requiring experience & training e.g. Skilled trades (RQF 3-5) Lower-skilled: Requiring some training/experience e.g. Process operative, skilled field worker (RQF 2) Unskilled: Requiring minimal training/experience, e.g. Elementary roles, picking, packing etc. (below RQF 2)							

Q4.13 In 2023, how confident are you in your ability to **retain** non-seasonal staff:

	Very confident (1)	Confident (2)	Neutral (3)	Doubtful (4)	Very doubtful (5)	Don't know (6)	Not Applicable (7)
Highly- skilled staff (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skilled staff (2)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Semi- skilled staff (3)	0	0	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	0
Lower- skilled staff (4)	0	0	\circ	\circ	0	0	0
Unskilled staff (5)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0

Skill level text

Highly-skilled: Degree level and above e.g. Engineers, Directors etc. (RQF level 6 and above) **Skilled:** Requiring a degree & experience e.g. Production / Operations / HR Managers, (RQF level 6)

Semi-skilled: Requiring experience & training e.g. Skilled trades (RQF 3-5)

Lower-skilled: Requiring some training/experience e.g. Process operative, skilled field worker (RQF 2)

Unskilled: Requiring minimal training/experience, e.g. Elementary roles, picking, packing etc. (below RQF 2)

Display This Question:	
If How long has your business been in operation? = Less than three years	
Q <i>4.15</i> How many weeks on average did it take to recruit new staff: This year (1)	
Display This Question:	
If How long has your business been in operation? = Three years or more	
Q4.16 How many weeks on average did it take to recruit new staff: This year (1) Three years ago (2)	
Q4.17 Please provide any further details on strategies your business uses to recruit and retastaff:	ıin
Q4.18 How many agency staff did you plan to engage this year? staff (1)	

If How many agency staff did you plan to engage this year? [staff] > 0

Q4.19 How many agency staff did you actually engage this year?
_____ staff (1)

End of Block: Section 4: Recruitment strategy

Start of Block: Section 5: Labour shortages impact

Part 5 Intro Part 5: Impact of labour shortages
Q5.2 Have labour shortages for non-seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in the last year?
○ Yes (1)
O No (2)
O Don't know (3)
Display This Question:
If Have labour shortages for non-seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in = Yes
Q5.3 Please rate the scale of the impact of non-seasonal labour shortages:
O Minor impact (1)
O Moderate impact (2)
O Severe impact (3)

Q5.4 Have labour shortages for seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in the last year?
○ Yes (1)
O No (2)
O Don't know (3)
District This Occasion.
Display This Question:
If Have labour shortages for seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in the = Yes
Q5.5 Please rate the scale of the impact of seasonal labour shortages:
O Minor impact (1)
O Moderate impact (2)
O Severe impact (3)

If Have labour shortages for non-seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in... = Yes

Or Have labour shortages for seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in the... = Yes

Q5.6 What was the result of the impact of **overall labour shortages** had on your business in England in the last year? (select all that apply)

elect all tha	t apply)
	Reduced productivity (1)
	Crops wasted (2)
	Increased level of imports (3)
	Additional reliance on existing workforce (4)
	Used more overtime to maintain production (5)
	Increased wages (6)
	Reduced profitability (7)
	Preventing my business from growing (8)
	Resulted in site closure/downsizing (9)
	Moving business overseas (10)
	Considering closing the business (11)
	Other (please specify) (12)

If Have labour shortages for non-seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in... = Yes

Or Have labour shortages for seasonal staff had a negative impact on your business in England in the... = Yes

Start of Block: Section 6: Automation

Part 6 intro Part 6: Automation
Q6.2 Is automation technology available, or being developed, in your sector?
O No (1)
O Yes (2)
O Don't know (3)
Display This Question:
If Is automation technology available, or being developed, in your sector? = Yes
Or Is automation technology available, or being developed, in your sector? = Don't know
Q6.3 Do you use automation technology in your business?
O No (1)
O Yes (2)
O Don't know (3)

Display This Question:	
If Do you use automation technology in your business? = Yes	
Q6.4 Please describe the automation technology you use:	
Display This Question:	
If Do you use automation technology in your business? = No	
Q6.5 If you do not use automation technology, why not?	
Available technology not reliable or advanced enough (1)	
Investment too risky (2)	
Too expensive (3)	
Lack of knowledge or know how (4)	
Other (please specify) (5)	
End of Block: Section 6: Automation	

Start of Block: Section 7: further evidence

of documents (you will be able to upload them)?
O No (1)
O Yes (2)
Skip To: End of Block If Do you have any further evidence/information you wish to submit to the Panel in the form of docum = No
Q7.2 You can upload files here:
End of Block: Section 7: further evidence