

DAERA Migrant Labour and Trade Enquiry

Overview

This paper presents survey results for the food and drinks processing sector; a separate survey exercise has been undertaken for the agriculture sector. Appendix A provides a brief overview of the survey process and response rates.

The results presented in this paper include estimates for the firms that did not respond to the survey. Estimates were calculated by subsector, based off the size of the workforce and total sales.

The employment figures discussed in this paper are total number of employees. This does not take into account whether the employee is a part time or full time employee. The DAERA publication Size and Performance of the NI Food and Drinks Processing Sector presents employment figures in terms of Full-Time Equivalents (FTE), which takes into consideration the full/part time distinction. The FTE figure for employment will be lower than total number of employees. Therefore the figures presented in this paper are not directly comparable with the figures previously published.

Sector results

In 2017, there was an estimated 24,328 employees employed in the food and drinks processing sector. Of these an estimated 40 per cent, 9,767 employees, were citizens of Other EU countries (EU excluding the UK and Ireland) and 3.5 per cent, 850 employees, were citizens of the Rest of the World (ROW).

	Number of employees	% share of total employees
All nationalities	24,328	100
Other EU	9,767	40
Rest of World	850	3.5

Of the firms that responded to the survey, 70 per cent indicated that other EU workers were some level of important to the functioning of their business; 44 per cent of respondents stated other EU workers were Very Important. Under a quarter of respondents (24 per cent) said Other EU workers were Not at all important.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents (64 per cent) indicated said ROW workers were Not at all important to the functioning of their business. Not all of the firm's that

responded to the survey answered this question on the importance of ROW workers. The question had a response rate of 53 per cent, which suggests the proportion of firms where ROW workers are not at all important is most likely higher than 64 per cent overall.

When asked a multiple choice question on how their business would adapt if a future UK government placed significant restrictions on the recruitment of migrant labour, the most favoured option was to recruit more UK/ROI citizens. The next most popular responses were to do nothing and invest in capital, followed by move production and reduce production. The Don't Know option was selected by 17 per cent of respondents.

Long term trends in Migrant Labour

From 2001 onwards there has been continued growth in the numbers of other EU workers employed in the food and drinks processing sector. The 2001 and 2011 Census results, presented in the table below, show the number of EU workers grew by 3,109 workers over the ten year period.

	2001 Census		2011 Census	
	Number of employees	% share of total employees	Number of employees	% share of total employees
All nationalities	14,798	100	15,556	100
Other EU	90	0.6	3,199	20.6
Rest of World	106	0.7	554	3.6

By 2011, Other EU workers made up over 20 per cent of total workers in the food and drinks processing sector. Workers from the Rest of the World grew from 0.7 per cent of total employees to 3.6 per cent in 2011.

Occupation profile

Occupation	% of all employees	% of occupation from Other EU	% of Total Other EU workers	% of occupation from ROW	% of Total ROW workers
Managers, Directors and senior officials	6.2	4.2	0.7	1.2	1.7
Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.6	9.0	2.2	1.3	2.9
Elementary occupations (unskilled, miscellaneous or other occupations)	5.1	37.3	4.8	1.6	1.9
Process, plant and machine operatives	66.5	52.8	89.2	5.6	86.1
Sales and customer service occupations	4.3	5.6	0.6	3.5	3.4
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	0.5	18.4	0.2	0	0
Skilled trades occupations	4.1	18.4	1.9	3.6	3.3
Associate professional and technical occupations	3.1	3.1	0.2	1.0	0.7
Professional occupations	0.7	8.7	0.2	0	0

The majority of employees (67 per cent) in the food and drinks processing sector are process, plant and machine operatives. Of these workers, 53 per cent were from Other EU countries in 2017. This occupation accounted for 89 per cent of Other EU workers employed in the food and drinks processing sector in NI in 2017.

Elementary occupations (unskilled, miscellaneous or other occupations) had the second highest proportion of Other EU workers (37 per cent) and accounted for 4.8 per cent of total Other EU workers in the sector.

For ROW workers in the food and drinks processing sector, 86 per cent were employed as process, plant and machine operatives. This was 5.6 per cent of total employment in that occupation type.

Employees by sector

Sector	Total of employees	Other EU		Rest of World	
		Employees	% of total employees	Employees	% of total employees
Animal by-products	107	9	8.4%	0	-
Bakeries	4,416	1,761	39.9%	57	1.3%
Beef & Sheepmeat	5,657	2,691	47.6%	204	3.6%
Drinks	1,421	94	6.6%	10	0.7%
Eggs	400	107	26.8%	1	0.3%
Fish	653	158	24.2%	0	-
Fruit & Vegetables	2,607	1,337	51.3%	28	1.1%
Milk & Milk products	1,808	185	10.2%	14	0.8%
Pigmeat	1,665	850	51.1%	2	0.1%
Poultrymeat	5,594	2,575	46.0%	533	9.5%
Total	24,328	9,767	40.1%	849	3.5%

In 2017, four subsectors had a higher proportion of Other EU workers compared with the overall sector figure of 40 per cent; Fruit & Vegetables (51 per cent), Pigmeat (51 per cent), Beef & Sheepmeat (48 per cent), and Poultrymeat (46 per cent). The Bakeries subsector had the 5th highest proportion of Other EU workers at 40 per cent.

These five subsectors combined accounted for an estimated 64 per cent of total employees in the food and drinks processing sector, and 76 per cent of total Other EU workers.

The Poultrymeat and Beef & Sheepmeat subsectors had the highest number of ROW workers in 2017, accounting for 63 per cent and 24 per cent of the total ROW workers in the sector respectively. But ROW workers make up a minority of total employees in each subsector; 9.5 per cent in Poultrymeat and 3.6 per cent in Beef & Sheepmeat.

Seasonal workers

	Number of seasonal workers	% share of total seasonal workers
All nationalities	1,233	100
Other EU	929	75.3
Rest of World	87	7.1

In 2017, an estimated 1,233 seasonal workers were employed in the food and drinks processing sector. Of these, 75 per cent were Other EU workers and 7.1 per cent were ROW. The Fruit and Vegetables, Poultrymeat, and Beef & Sheepmeat subsectors made up an estimated 71 per cent of total seasonal worker employment.

Frontier workers

	Number of frontier workers	% share of total frontier workers
All nationalities	264	100
Other EU	67	25.4
Rest of World	13	4.9

In 2017, an estimated 264 frontier workers were employed in the food and drinks processing sector. A frontier worker is an employee that lives in ROI and travels to a permanent station of work in NI. An estimated 25 per cent of frontier workers are Other EU workers and just under 5 per cent are ROW workers.

Transport of external trade through ROI

Surveyed firms were asked to estimate the proportion of their company's sales in 2016 that were transported through ROI to their final destinations in GB (England, Scotland and Wales), Other EU countries (excluding UK and ROI) or Rest of the World. Based off 2015 data, a 2016 estimate was produced for the total value of sales from the food and drinks processing sector to each of three destinations.

Destination	Value transported through ROI (£m)	Total value of sales (£m)¹	% transported through ROI
GB	209	2,081	10%
Other EU	31.2	408	7.6%
ROW	2.0	137	1.5%
Total	242.2	2,626	9.2%

¹ Total sales figures are an estimate for 2016. Actual figures for sales by destination in 2016 will be published July 2018 in the Size and Performance of the NI Food and Drinks Processing Sector

An estimated 9.2 per cent of sales in 2016 to GB, Other EU and ROW transported through ROI. An estimated 10 per cent of GB sales, 7.6 per cent of Other EU sales and 1.5 per cent of ROW sales transported through ROI in 2016.

Only half of the subsectors responded that they transported goods through ROI to final destinations; Beef & Sheepmeat, Drinks, Eggs, Fish, and Fruit & Vegetables.

Appendix A

DAERA undertook a migrant labour and trade enquiry survey of firms in the food and drinks processing sector to augment the ABI Trade Module survey undertaken by NISRA. DAERA asked additional questions on migrant labour, seasonal workers, frontier workers and the route by which sales are transported to external markets.

The DAERA survey had two versions; a full survey was issued to 173 food and drinks processing firms and a part survey was issued to 99 food and drinks processing firms. The full survey was made up of questions asked by NISRA in their survey and additional questions that DAERA asked only. The part survey only included the additional DAERA questions and was sent out to firm's identified as being captured by the NISRA survey.

This two version method was decided on to avoid firms being surveyed for the same questions at the same time, and an agreement was in place that NISRA would share their data, leaving no need for DAERA to undergo the same survey.

The overall response rate for the DAERA surveys was 54 per cent. The full survey had a 61 per cent response rate and the part survey was 42 per cent.