



Vulnerability of Labour Migrants, Their Rights and the Role of Trade Unions

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Who are 'migrants' in the UK?

Where are migrants in the UK economy?

Table 1 - Top-10 occupations of foreign-born workers, 2011

Top 10 by workforce share, all migrants		%	Occupation share	Top 10 by workforce share, recent migrants		%	Occupation share
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
1	Elementary process plant	39.4	0.90	Elementary process plant	23.6	0.90	
2	Health professionals	30.1	1.33	Process operatives	13	0.93	
3	Food prep trades	28.8	1.17	Elementary cleaning	9.8	2.48	
4	Process operatives	28.2	0.93	Elementary goods storage	9.3	1.45	
5	Elementary cleaning	25.2	2.48	Elementary personal services	9.1	3.33	
6	Managers in hospitality	22.8	1.16	Assemblers & routine operatives	8.2	0.87	
7	Assemblers & routine operatives	21.8	0.87	Info & comms technology	8.1	1.82	
8	Info & comms technology	21.7	1.82	Elementary construction	7.7	0.75	
9	Research professionals	21.41	0.32	Food prep trades	6.45	1.17	
10	Elementary goods storage	20.22	1.76	Research professionals	6.25	0.32	

Note: occupation share indicates the share of total employment represented by the occupation. Source: Labour Force Survey 2011, Q1-4.

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Migrant Agency workers

- UK highest in Europe
- Part of flexible business model
- Prevalence of migrant workers
- Mainly in agriculture, food processing, cleaning and care sector

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Migrants' place in labour market encourages vulnerability...

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Video – Unions tackle migrants' vulnerability

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Group Exercise: ENGAGING AND ORGANISING MIGRANT WORKERS

Challenges to Organising vulnerable migrant workers in UK

- Geographical dispersion
- Falling membership in private sector
(Public sector = 56.3% vs Private sector = 14.4%)
- Lack of resources particularly after 2010
- flexible labour markets
- role played by employment agencies
- low density of membership in the private sector, where migrant workers are concentrated

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TUC and unions' work to support vulnerable Migrants in UK

- Information
- Legislation
- Organising
- Education
- Community networks

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Questions