

WORKFORCE

Horticulture Growers' Needs

March 2019

Ali Capper, Chairman NFU Horticulture & Potatoes Board



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A First World Problem

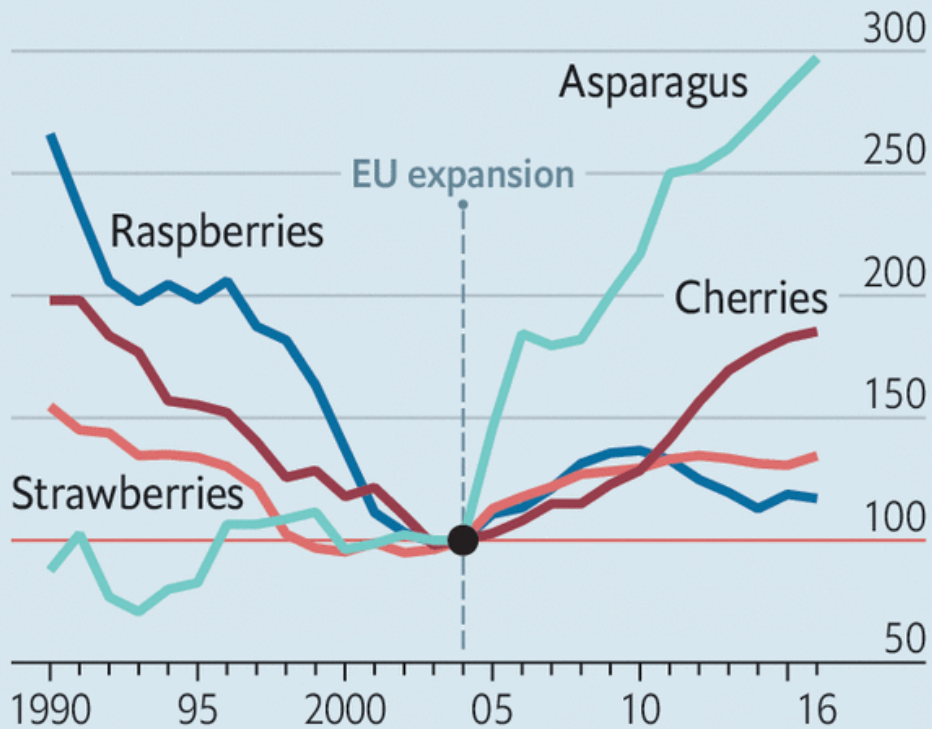
- Ageing populations, low unemployment levels
- Germany – 60k Ukrainians
- Netherlands – Temporary non EU Work Visa
- Poland – 500k seasonal workers (non-EU)
- USA – 240k seasonal workers, 450K proposed
- Australia, NZ, South Korea – seasonal schemes



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Inflection punnet

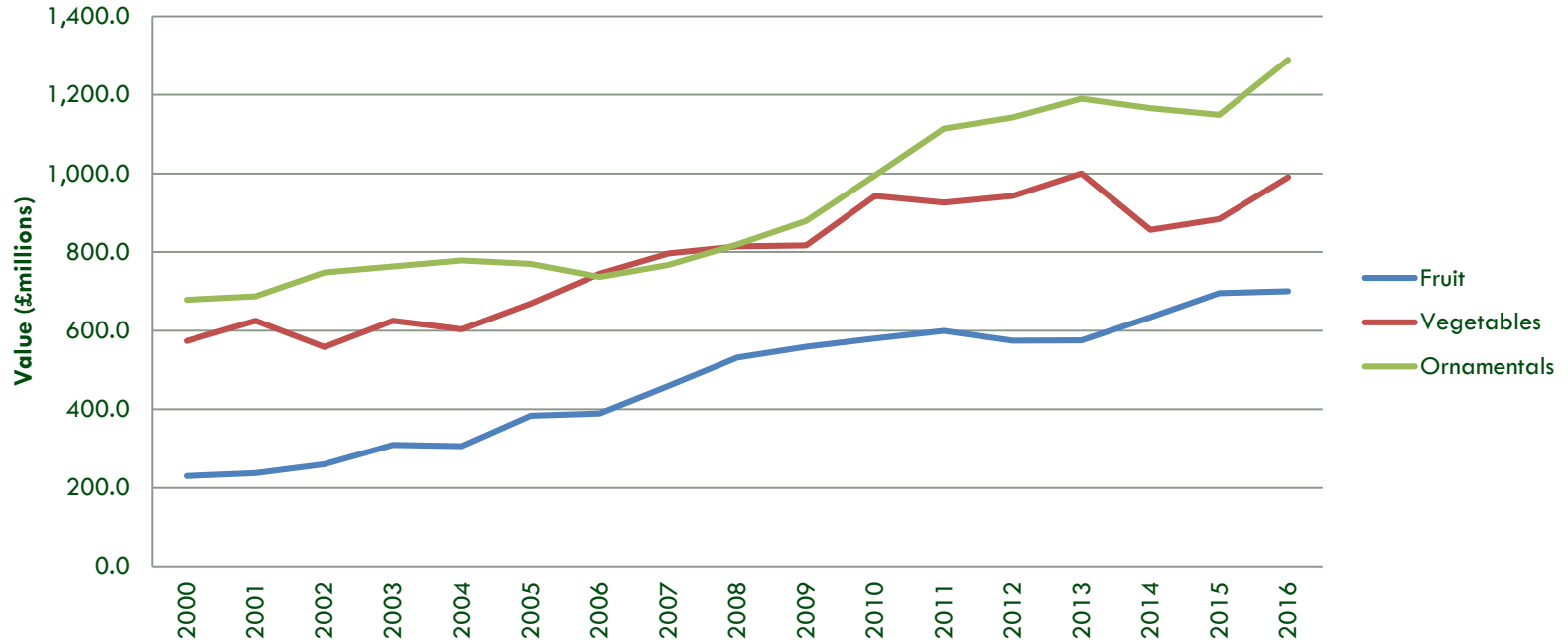
Britain, planted area, hectares, 2004=100



Source: ONS

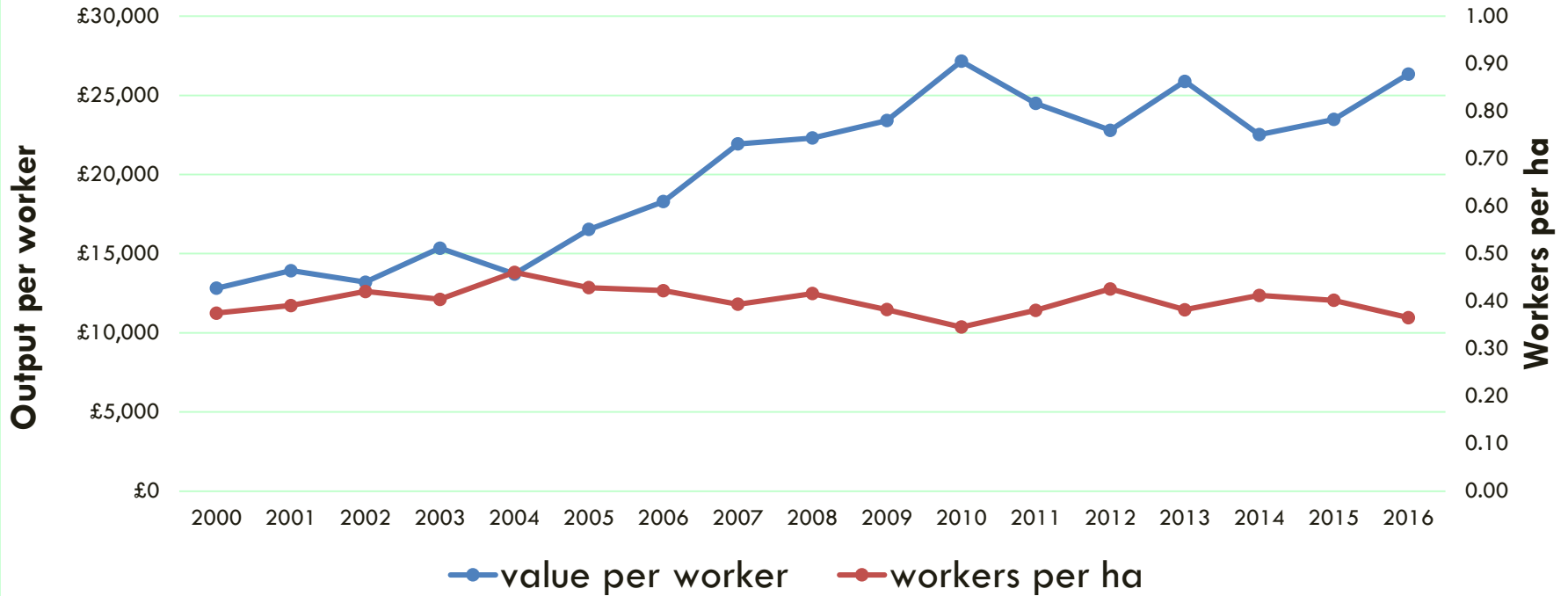


Horticulture value 2000 - 2016



Labour Productivity by sector: Fruit (204%), Vegetables (73%), Ornamentals (90%)

Estimated Casual Worker Productivity



CURRENT STATUS



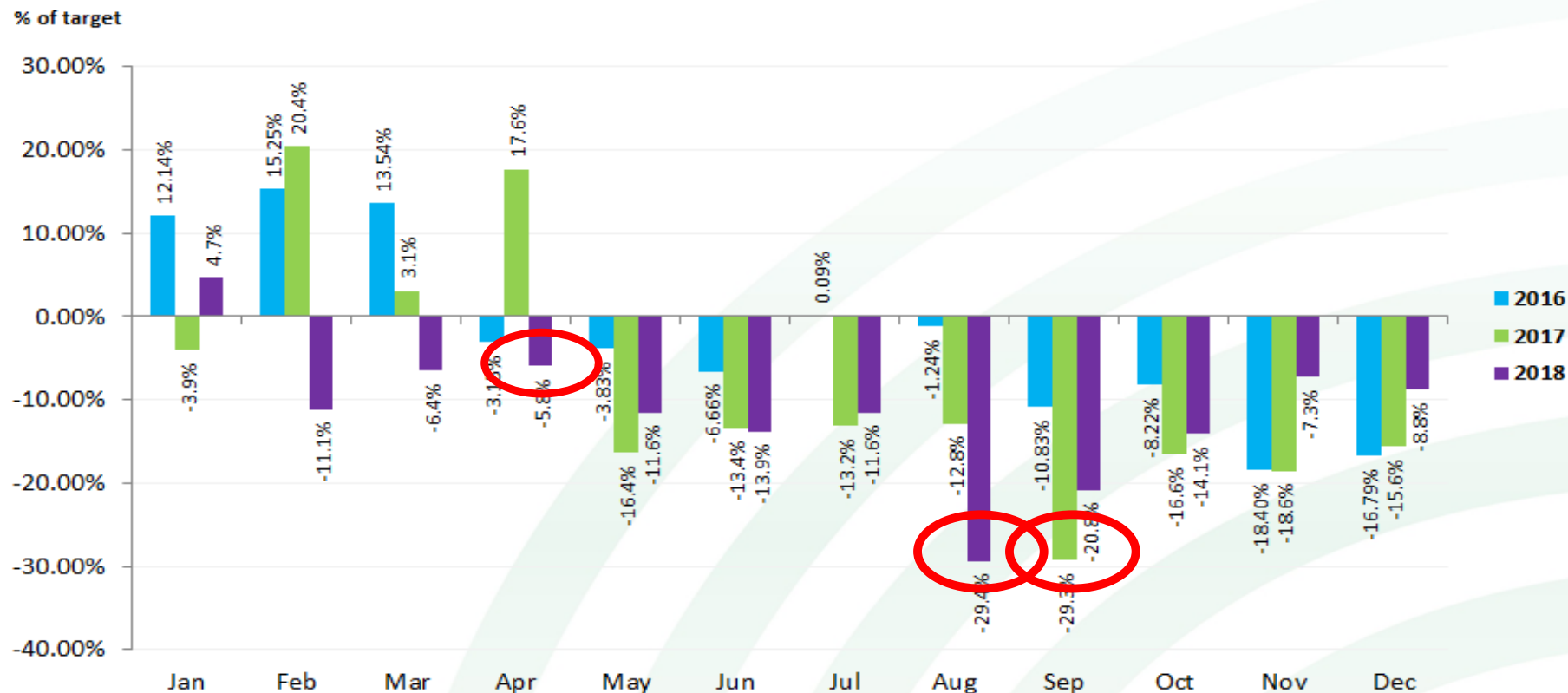
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2016 - 2018 seasonal labour availability



2016 +1.2%

2017 -12.5%

2018 -12.4%



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Blog

Defra in the media

Organisations: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#)

New pilot scheme to bring 2,500 seasonal workers to UK farms

Defra Press Office, 6 September 2018 - Weekly stories



- Non-EU: Moldova, Ukraine, Russia
- Concordia & Proforce
- NFU ask of government:
 - **10,000 permits for 2019**
 - **Cap on Fee**

- EU workers free to enter
- Right to remain application after 3 months: ID, security & criminality check. Fee TBC
- NFU asks:
 - **Extend to 6-12 months**
 - **Clear, positive comms**



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Future Immigration - White Paper

- Issues:
 - “Skilled” and £30k+
 - 12 month in/12 month out
- Responded to MAC consultation - Shortage Occupation List

Industry Ambition

- Consumer Trends: Health, plant-based, vegan
- Growth: massive opportunity
- People: Robotics, AI, Automation will take out lowest skilled jobs in 5-10 years but we will still need people



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ANY QUESTIONS?

Thank you for listening

 @AliCapper



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