

Rural Business Survey

Infographic 1



Links to the Land-based Sector

Rural Businesses in the North East & South of Scotland: 2017

42% of surveyed businesses had links to the land-based sector

Businesses with land-based linkages



Agricultural supplies Sawmill

Tree surgeon Engineering Agricultural services Food manufacturer

Forestry contractors Agricultural contractor Agricultural services Food manufacturer

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This research was undertaken within the Scottish Government's Strategic Research Programme 2016-2021, Work package 2.4 Rural Industries

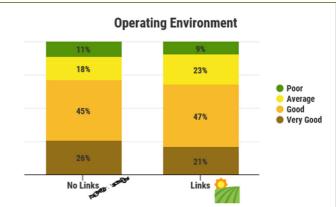




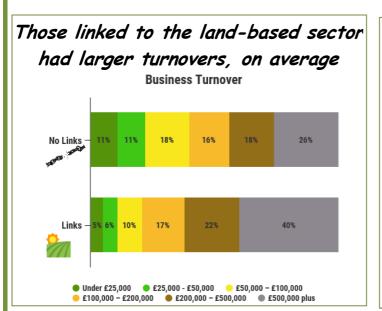


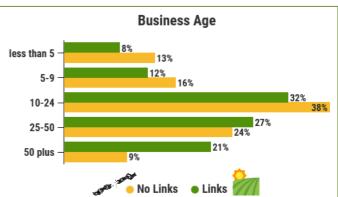


Business people with links to land-based sector had similar educational attainment to those without links No Links Links School Trade/technical/vocational training HNC/HND Undergraduate degree Postgraduate degree 16% 16% 16%



Businesses linked to the land-based sector were less likely to classify 2016-17 as a very good year

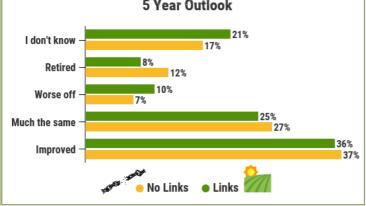




Businesses with links to the land based sector were generally longer established, with 20% over 50 yrs

Those linked with the land-based sector were less positive about the future, but were less likely to retire by 2022

5 Year Outlook

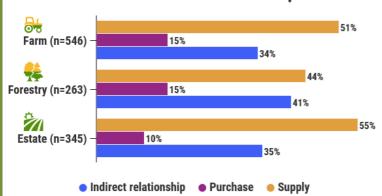




Businesses linked to the land-based sector were more likely to invest in their business by 2022, particularly in land & buildings and machinery

Links to Land-based Sector

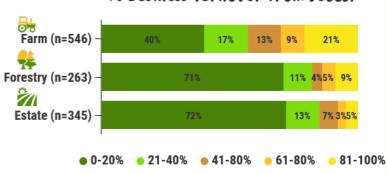
Nature of the Relationship



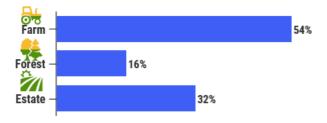
The most common form of linkage to the land-based sector was as suppliers. In each sector about 30%-40% of businesses had indirect relationships. About 10%-15% of businesses with links were purchasing goods and services from the land based sector.

Businesses linked to farming tended to have a higher reliance on the sector - i.e. they specialised in servicing farming. 1/5 of those with links to farming were more than 80% Forestry (n=263) reliant on it for their turnover. 3/4 of those linked to forestry and estates got less than 20% of their business turnover from these sectors.

% Business Turnover from Sector



Sectoral Cashfow Problems

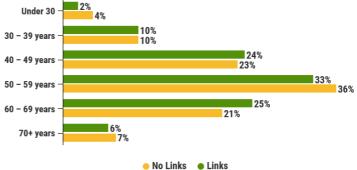


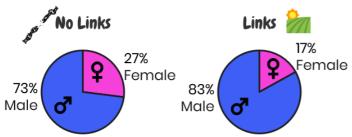
Of those with links to the land-based sector, 54% had witnessed cashflow problems in the farming sector between 2015 and 2017. Only 32% had seen problems in the estate sector and only 16% in the forestry sector. About 55 businesses said these issues had negative impacts on their business performance.

Age of Owners / Partners / Directors

Under 30 - 2%
4%

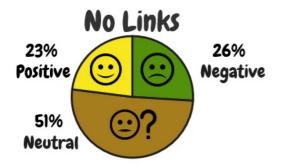
There was little difference in the age profile of the owners, partners and directors of those linked to the land-based sector and those that were not.





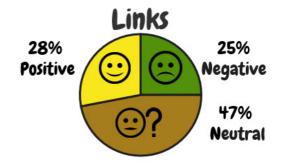
Female Women accounted for only 17% of the business owners / partners / directors with links to the land-based sector, but 27% of those without links.

BREXIT

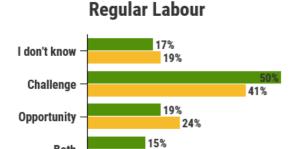


Both

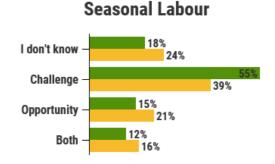




Businesses with land-based sector links were slightly more optimistic about the impacts of Brexit on their business

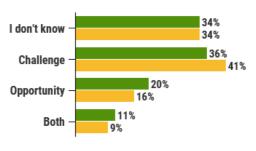


16%



More than 50% of the businesses with links to the land-based sector perceived post-Brexit access to regular and seasonal labour as a challenge (compared to about 40% of those Those linked to the land-based without links). sector were more optimistic about post-Brexit opportunities for exports although 59% thought importing would be more challenging. A lot of uncertainty remains over access to finance and business regulations

Access to Private Finance



Exports Imports Business Regulations 16% 16% I don't know I don't know I don't know Challenge Challenge Challenge 16% 27% Opportunity Opportunity Opportunity 22% 26% 10% 14% 10% Both Both Both 13% 11%

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Full report from: www.sruc.ac.uk/ruralbusinesssurvey

