

Pig farmers have been particularly badly affected - they say they are worried they will not be able to sell their animals this year, because of staff shortages in abattoirs.

Farmers have told the BBC they have slaughter-ready pigs waiting to be sent to butchers. However, a lack of trained staff to turn the pigs into food for customers means some risk being killed and sent to landfill instead.

And not only is there a problem with pork supply, but the production of pigs in blankets - cocktail sausages wrapped in bacon - is suffering from a lack of seasonal EU labour.

A number of food industry bodies have warned of panic-buying this Christmas unless action is taken to address those labour shortages.

They include the British Meat Processors Association (BMPA), which says it has traditionally found it difficult to attract British workers.

A BMPA spokesperson told the BBC that labour shortages were "perennial", but added:

"Since Brexit and following the pandemic, the problem has become much worse.

"Industries are now competing with each other for a dwindling pool of workers and the current labour crisis has seen workers in strategically important sectors like food manufacture and social care being enticed away by other sectors that can afford to hike wages 20% or 30%.

"To restore some balance in the labour market, every employer, including the public sector, may have to follow suit, but it will mean consumer price inflation."

DIY and home furnishings

Building materials have been running short in the UK, leaving DIY projects in doubt and putting construction firms under pressure.

Timber prices in particular have been soaring, pushed up by shipping issues, supply chain problems and post-Brexit import rules.

Meanwhile, supplies of cement, plasterboard and insulation are being rationed by manufacturers, according to builders' merchant Jewson.

Despite the supply squeeze, the UK construction industry is literally building back after the worst of the pandemic, but the shortages are leading to massive delays and significant price rises.

One builder told the BBC that a home extension previously costing £20,000 currently costs about £26,000.

But maybe your home is already big enough for you and you just want some new furniture. Even there, you could be out of luck.

Ikea, the world's biggest furniture company, sources a quarter of its products from China, while raw materials for its furniture are also running short.

So it too is facing supply chain problems, which it expects to continue into next year.

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