

# **IF NOT NOW, WHEN?**

**Action for our children's future**

## **RESEARCH UPDATE:- PARENTPAY AND LACA SCHOOL MEALS REPORT 2023**

**Anita Brown**

LACA Vice Chair

**Chris Schroeder**

MD, ParentPay

**Ricky Nelson**

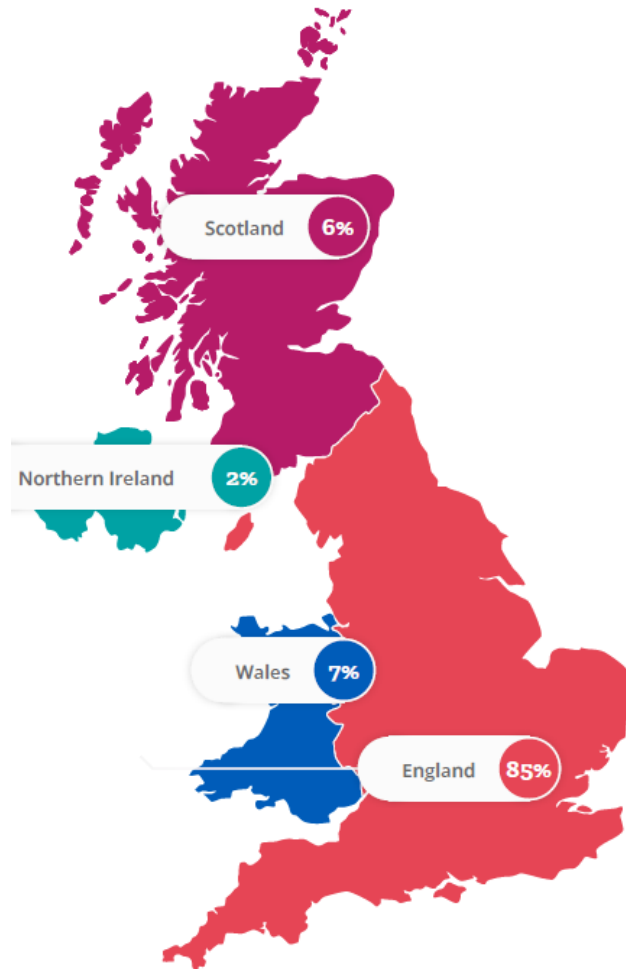
ParentPay

# 2023 School Meals Report project

Download the digital report



National split of UK responses:



"I think the report provides sound evidence of the value of school meals, regardless of being paid or free."

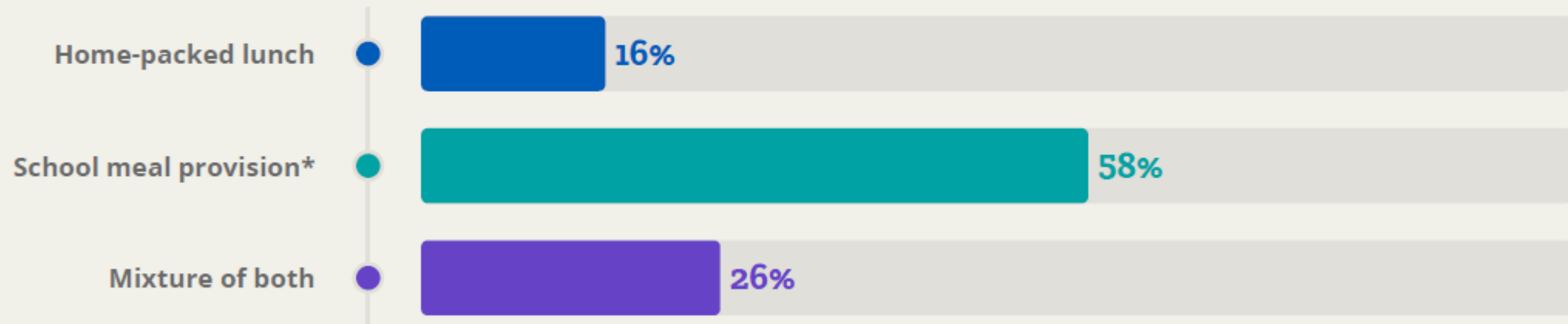
ParentPay Group Customer Caterer

## Why?

- Why are we doing this research?
- Why ParentPay Group?

# Key trends for 2023:

## School meal provision choices



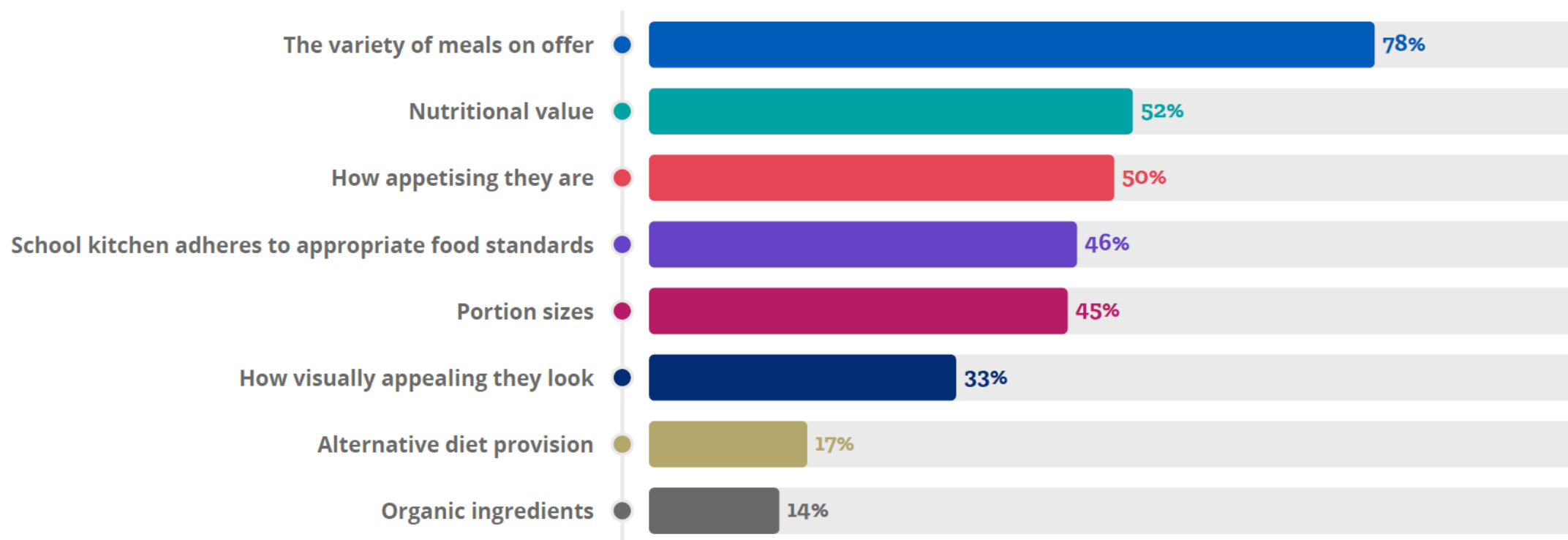
# Key trends for 2023:

The top three factors that would encourage increased school meal uptake are:

1. A wider selection of meals
2. Meals being better quality or more appetising
3. A lower cost per meal

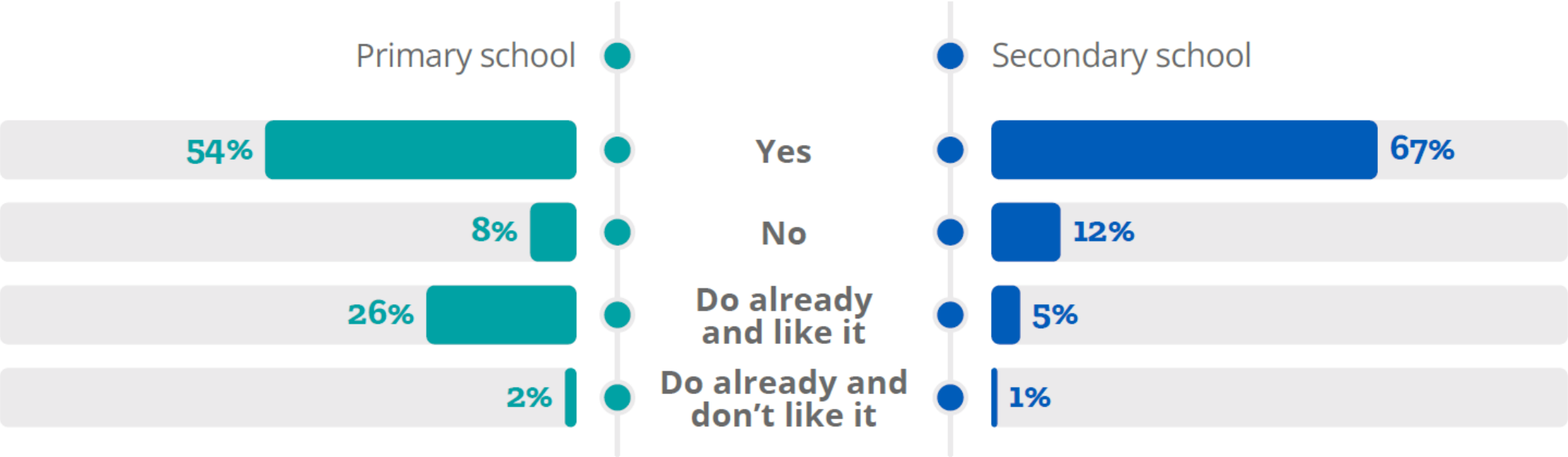
# Key trends for 2023:

## How do parents assess the quality of school meals?



# Key trends for 2023:

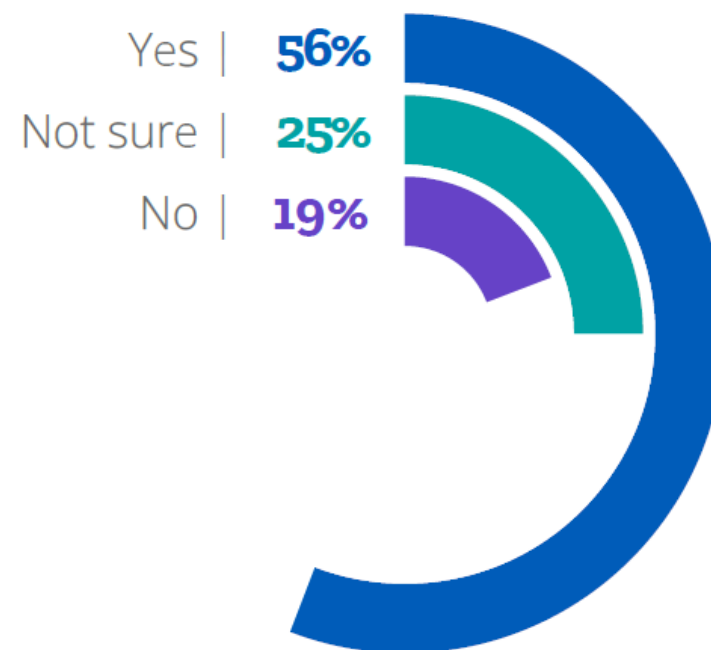
Would parents like to use school meal-related software?



# Key trends for 2023:

## Willingness and/or ability to pay for a school breakfast provision

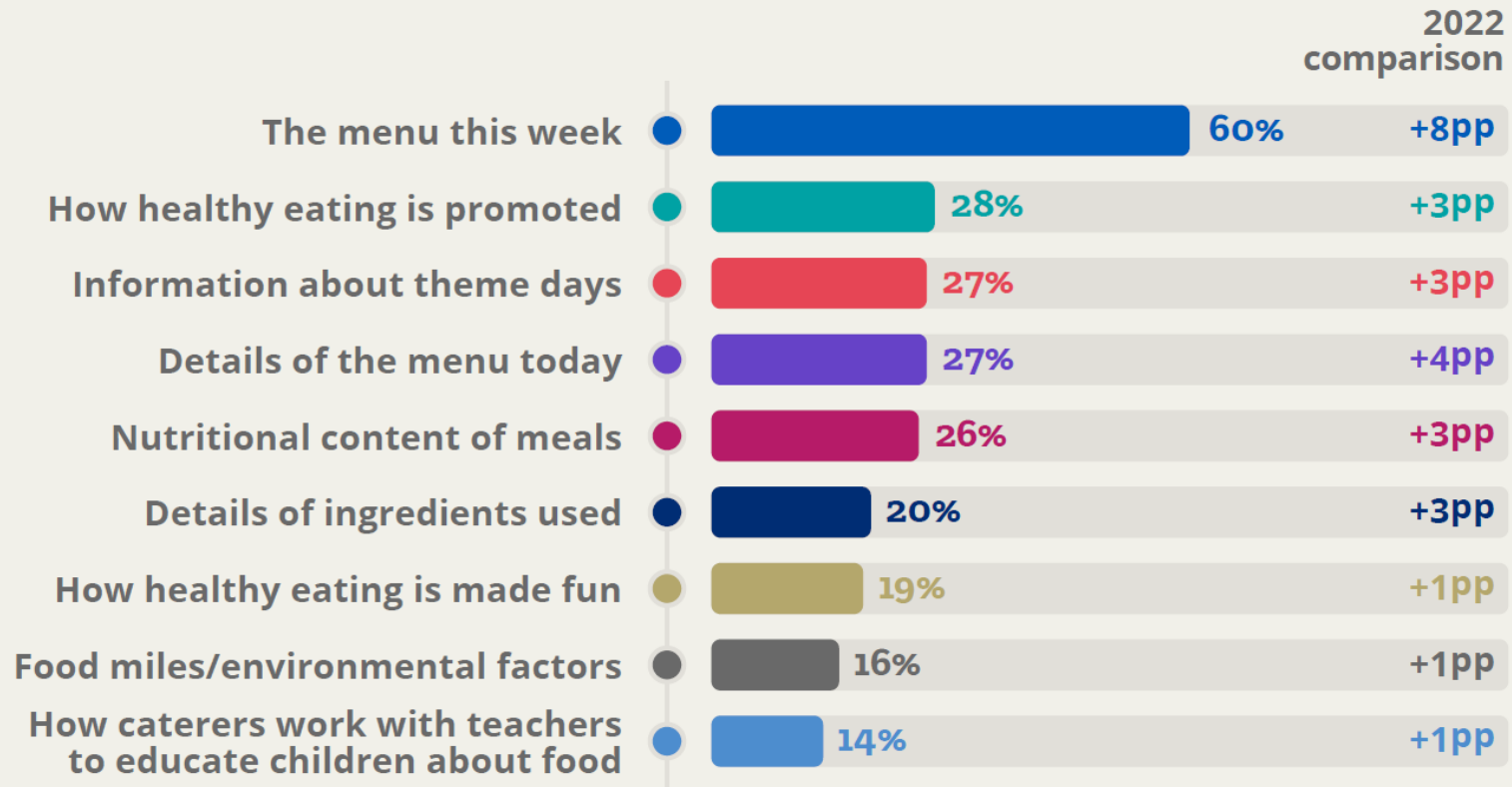
Of those that would like to see a breakfast option, but don't currently have one available in their schools, just over half would be willing to pay for it. This presents an additional revenue opportunity for caterers and schools, as well as the learning benefits a healthy breakfast gives to pupils.





# Key trends for 2023:

## Information parents would like their schools to provide



# Summary:

1

## 2023 school meal uptake

- 58% take meals every day
- Valued by parents for providing a hot meal and convenience

2

## How to increase meal uptake

- Wider selection of meals
- High quality/more appetising
- Decreased cost per meal

3

## Meal pre-ordering

- 64% secondary parents want their children to be able to
- Only 5% currently have the option to do so

4

## Free school meals

- 88% of eligible parents use them
- 62% say FSM improve their quality of life

# Recommendations:

**1**

**Introduce meal pre-orders**

**4**

**Promote weekly menus**

**2**

**Digital kitchen management**

**5**

**Share information on standards and nutritional value**

**3**

**Increase confidence and engagement with school meals**

# Any questions?

Download the digital report



Please contact  
[emily.reeves@parentpay.com](mailto:emily.reeves@parentpay.com) if you  
would like to ask a question directly!



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# Cost-of-Living Survey

## June 2023

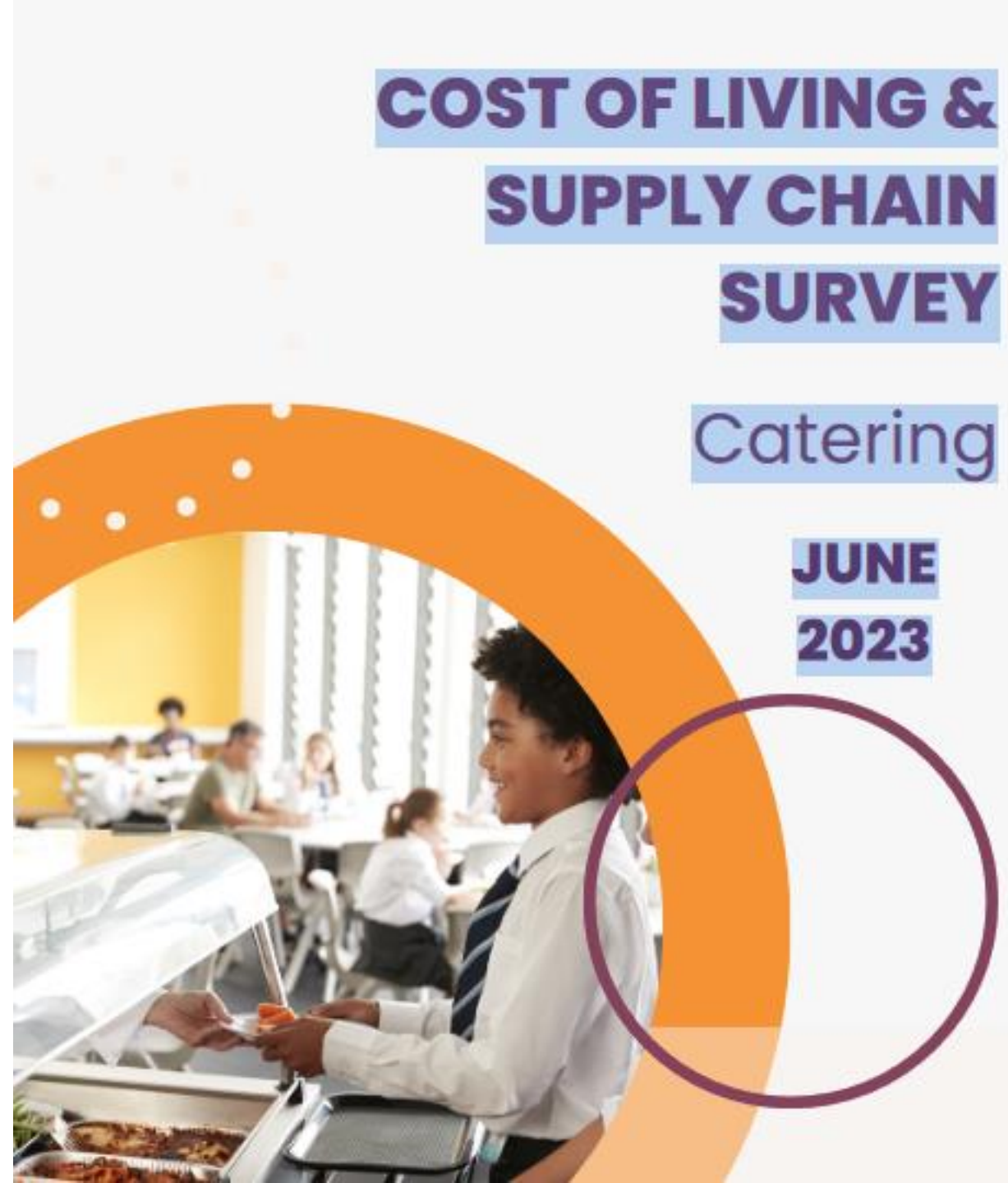
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Anita Brown  
National Vice-Chair  
Main Event, Birmingham 5-7 July 2023

# COST OF LIVING & SUPPLY CHAIN SURVEY

Catering

JUNE  
2023



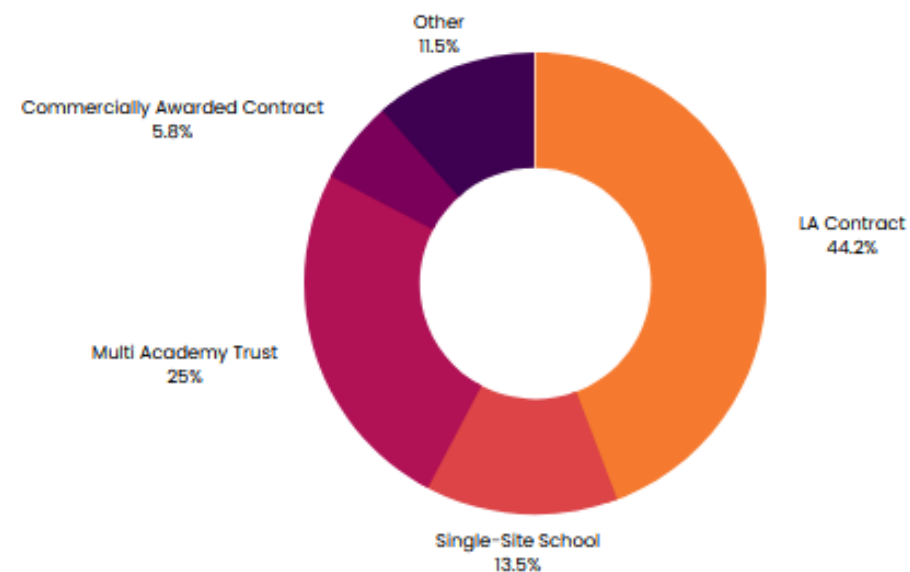
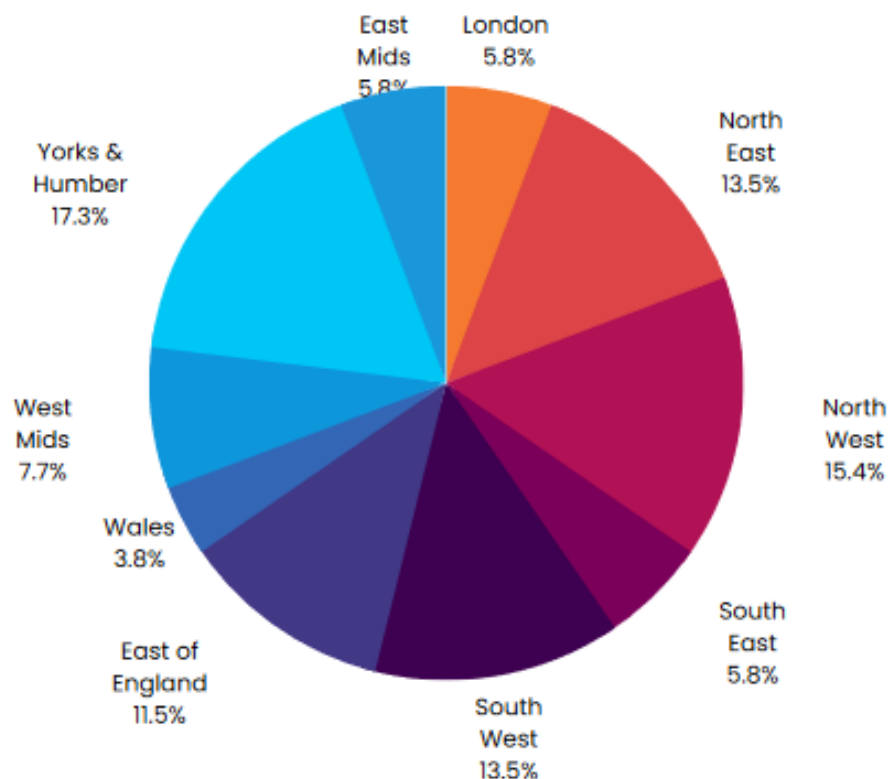


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# Who responded?

87 respondents across the LACA membership ranging from single-site providers, LA's and large commercial providers from England & Wales completed the survey.

**These respondents provide services across more than 8,350 schools feeding over 1 million pupils every day.**







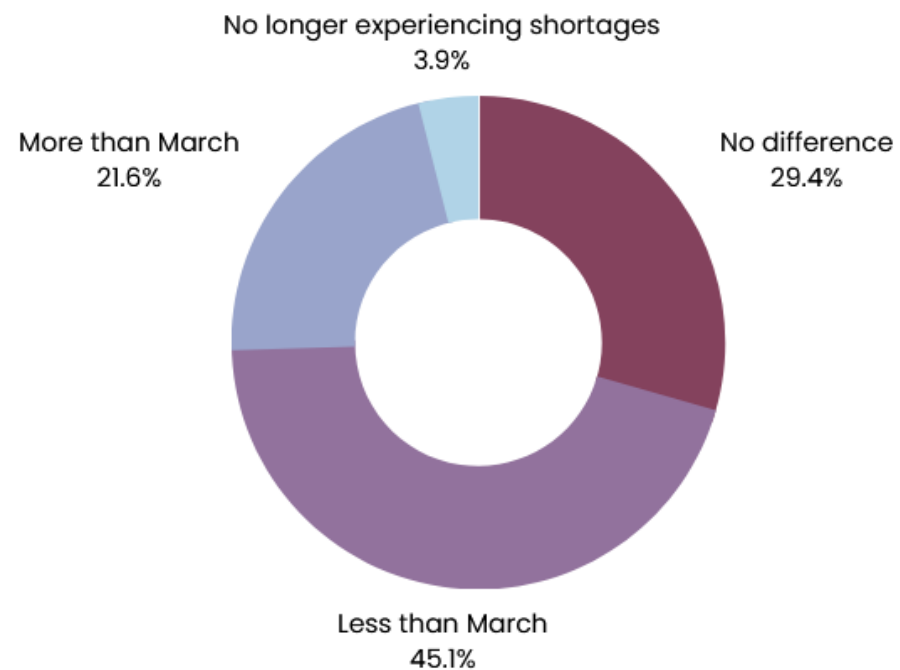
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Just under **96%** of survey respondents are still experiencing food shortages and substitutions from their supply chain.

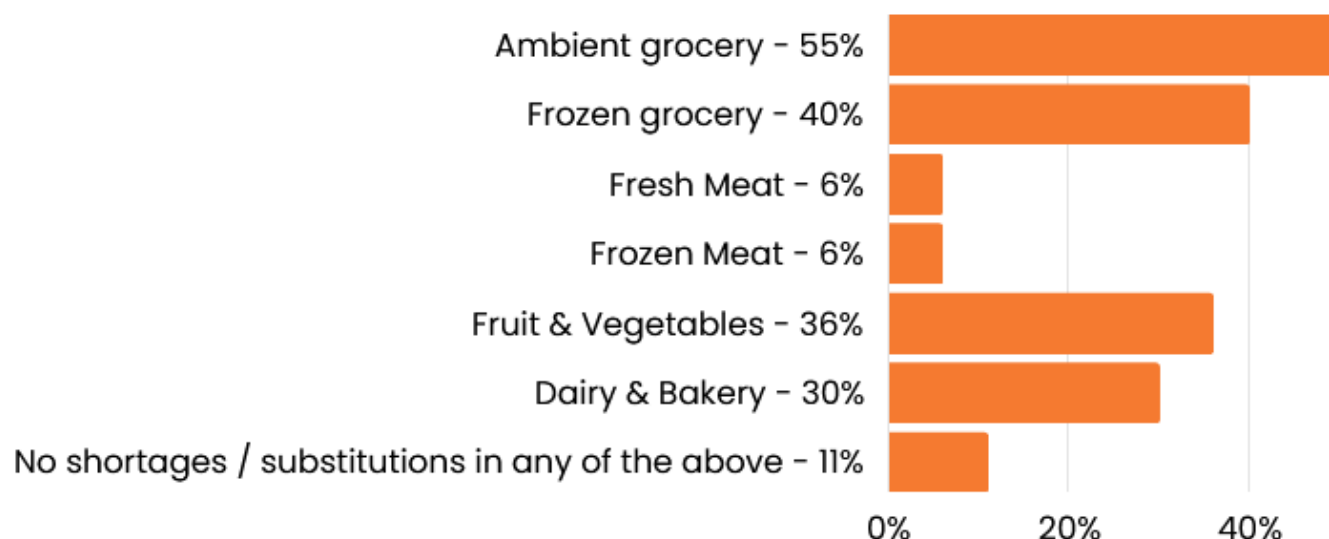


## What did you say?

We asked how this compared to **March 2023** with **51%** of respondents saying the situation had not changed or had worsened.



We asked which food categories have been most affected since **March 2023**:



**Eggs, pasta and potatoes** were mentioned most frequently.



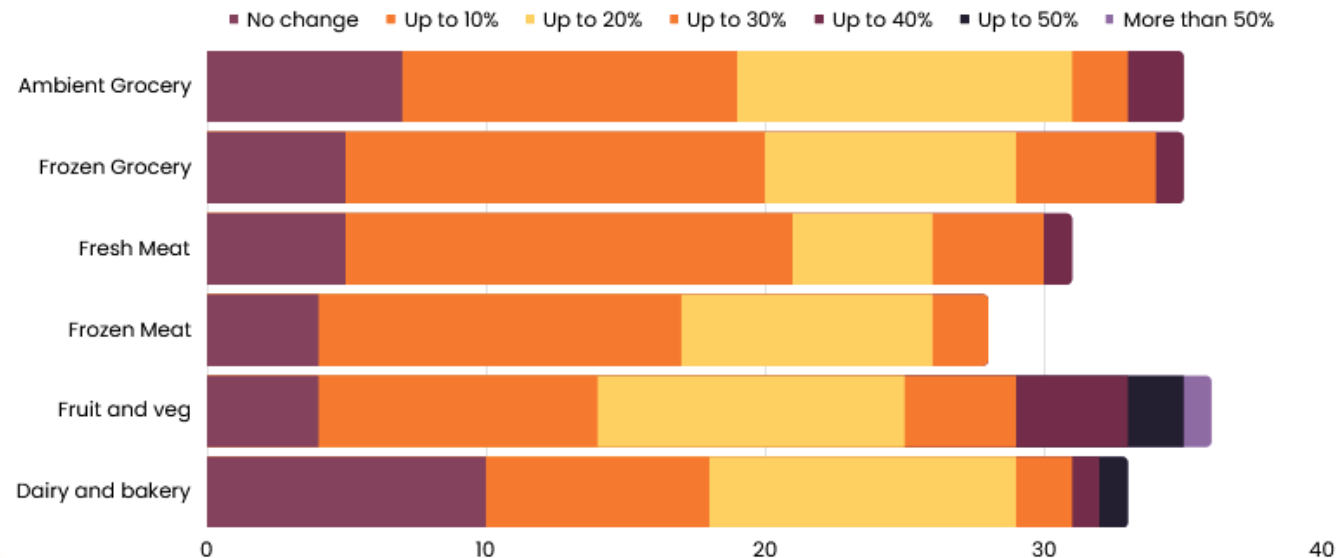


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## By how much?

We asked our respondents, **compared to March 2023**, have you received notification from your suppliers of any **further** increases in the cost of food and ingredients?

For the **95.2%** of caterers that advised of further price rises, we asked them to identify a % increase across key food categories:



The majority of respondents are experiencing **further** price rises of up to **20%** across all categories, but, its important to note these are **additional rises** on top of those already reported in since September, November 2022 and March 2023, where some caterers reported increases at that time of **more than 50%**.

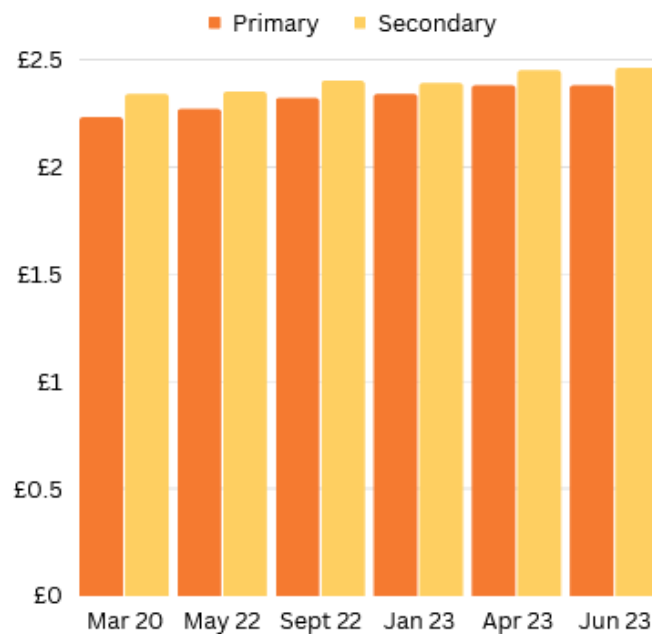


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# Meal prices

**We asked our respondents to provide the selling price of the 'paid for meal / meal of the day since March 2020 in their primary schools and secondary schools.**

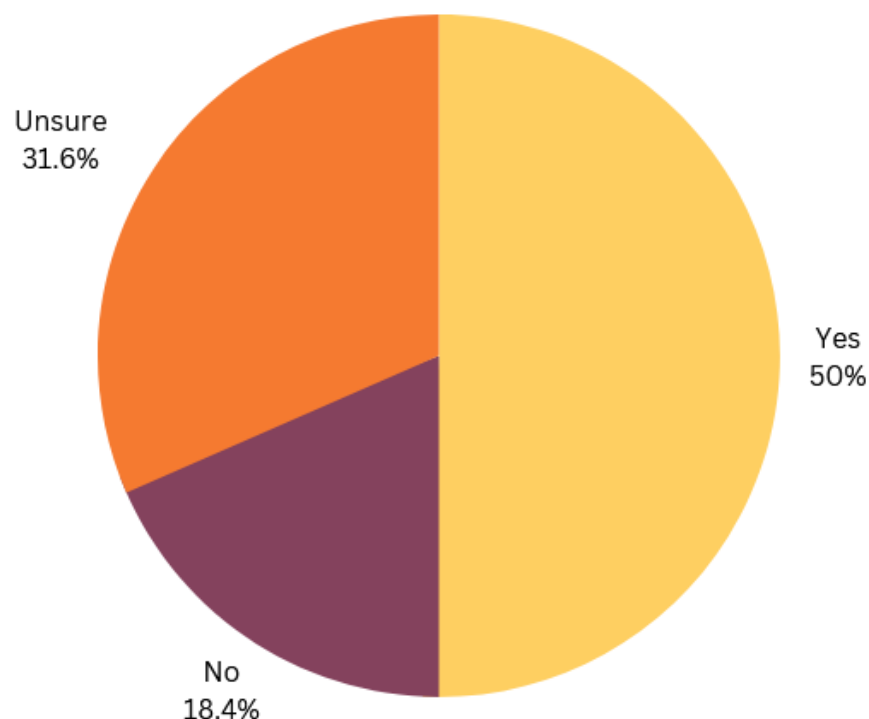
Date	Primary	Secondary
March 2020	£2.23	£2.32
May 2022	£2.27	£2.35
Sep 2022	£2.32	£2.40
January 2023	£2.34	£2.39
April 2023	£2.38	£2.45
June 2023	£2.38	£2.46



**On average, the price of a meal has increased by 6.6% since March 2020 with further increases expected.**

# Further price rises...

**We asked respondents if they were aware of any further planned increases in the selling price of the paid for meal.**



We asked those respondents who were aware of further increases, how much they expected this to be with an average meal price from **September 2023** of **£2.70**.

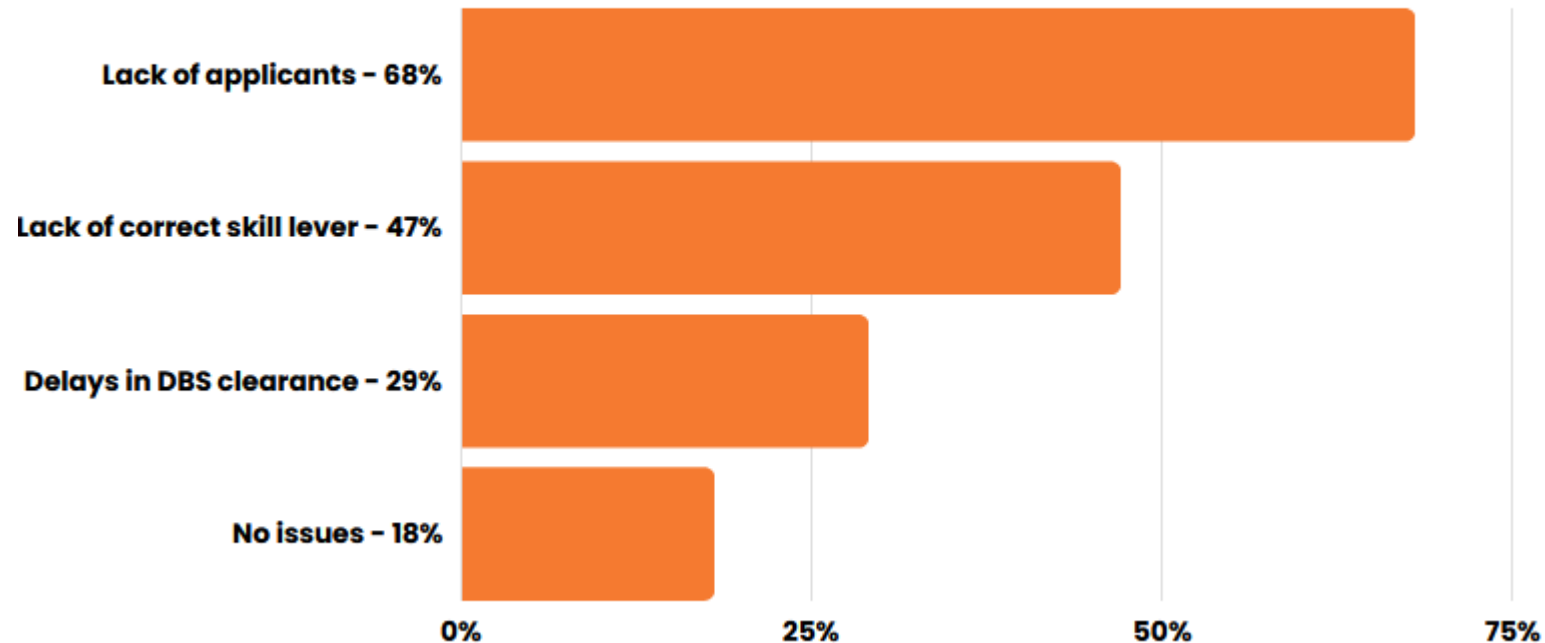
A meal price of £2.70 from September 2023 will represent a **19% increase** since March 2020.



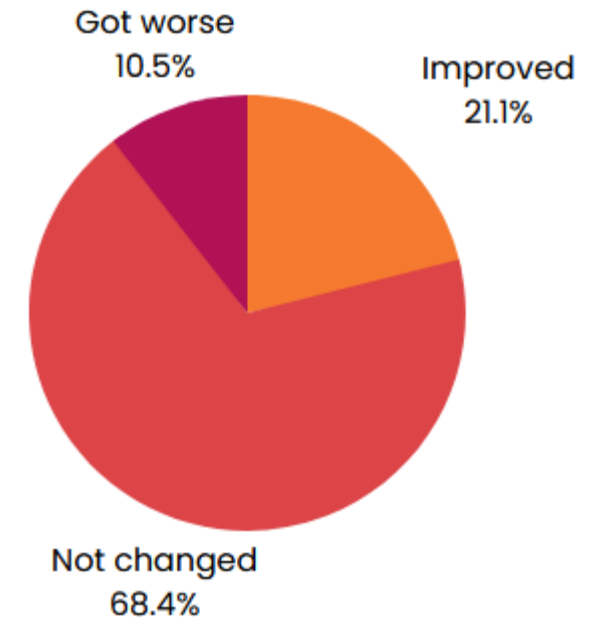
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# Recruitment

**Are you experiencing recruitment challenges?**



When asked how the situation compared to March 2023, **79%** of respondents said that, compared it had not changed or actually got worse.

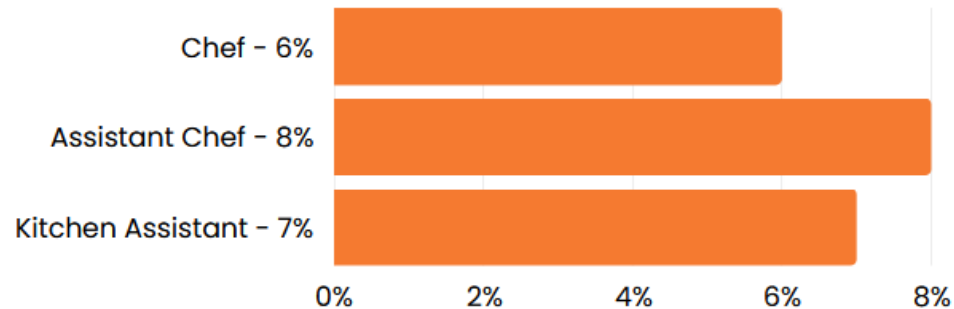




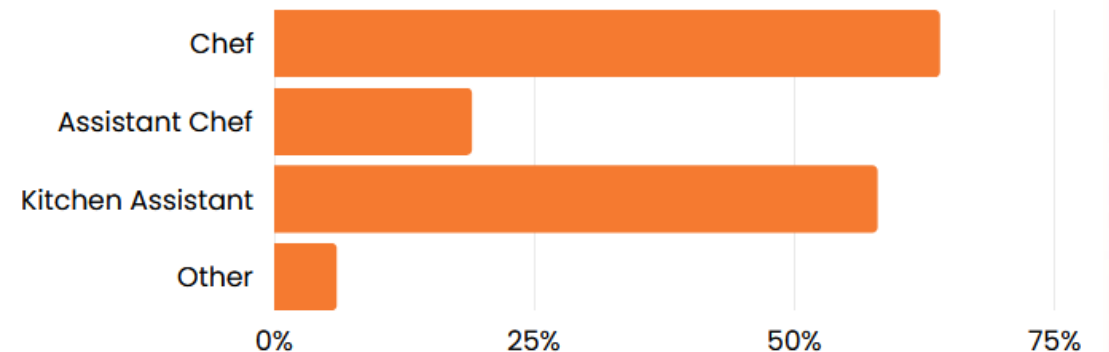
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# Recruitment

**What % of the following roles are currently vacant within your operation?**



**Which roles have been challenging to fill?**

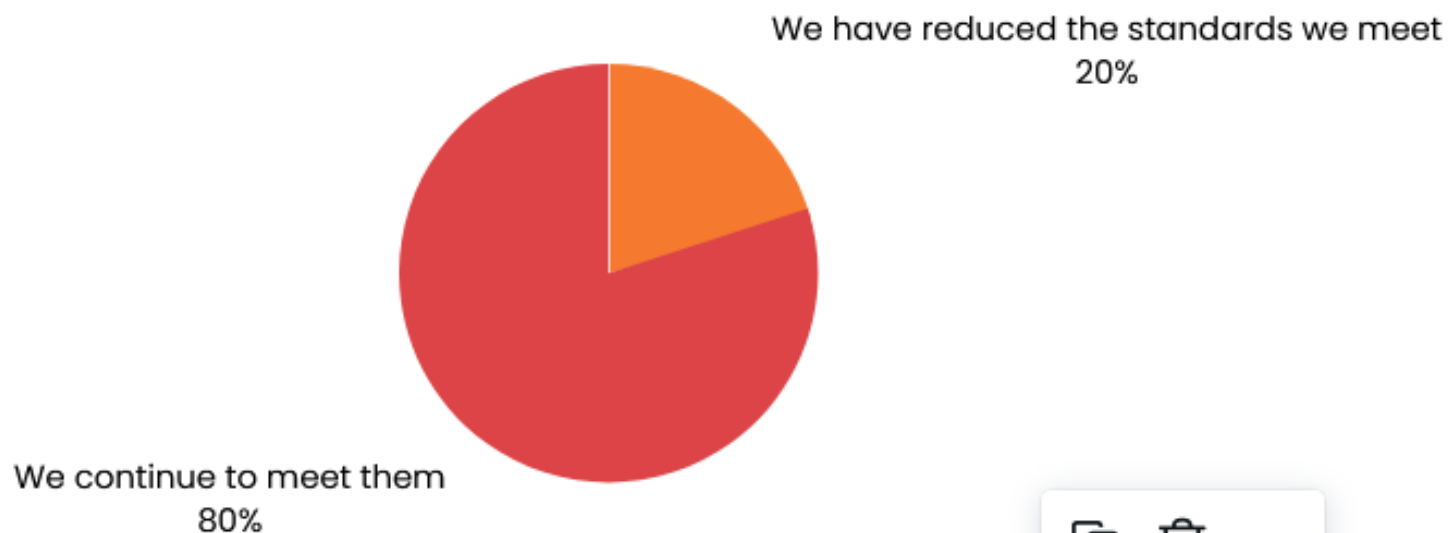


In addition to recruitment challenges, respondents also reported they are seeing sickness absence levels of **17%** on average, although some advised that they are experiencing levels in **excess of 30%**.

# School Food Standards

**We asked, how has the rising cost of food affected your ability to meet the mandatory School Food Standards?**

In June 2023, **20%** of respondents told us that meeting the standards in full is becoming increasingly difficult – this is an increase on **12.5%** in November and **19%** in March





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# Thank you for your time

A copy of the LACA Cost of Living and Supply Chain Survey will be available to download on the website at: -

[www.laca.co.uk](http://www.laca.co.uk)





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WHEN?**

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