



PRESS RELEASE

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Public thematic report

ACCOMMODATION FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

The need to provide accommodation for non-sedentary seasonal workers in order to facilitate their recruitment, which is essential to the preservation and development of economic activities such as tourism and agriculture, is an issue that has been clearly identified by the public authorities as a way of supporting these sectors, but has not been sufficiently addressed. This investigation is based on work carried out by the regional audit chambers of Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Nouvelle Aquitaine, and on some sixty interviews conducted throughout France. Although there are no consolidated statistics on their numbers, the financial jurisdictions estimate that 400,000 seasonal workers need accommodation close to their place of work. Without local accommodation, recruitment becomes more difficult.

A shared concern, but no real public policy

The various levers used to promote accommodation solutions for seasonal workers are often ineffective because they do not meet their specific needs. The May 2023 national plan for seasonal workers, which followed on from earlier initiatives to make these jobs more attractive, pays little attention to accommodation and is not well known or well taken into account in the regions.

Some regions, as part of their remit for tourism or mobility, are trying to promote a number of initiatives, but this is not a specific policy. This lack of steering is an aggravating factor in the shortage of accommodation for seasonal workers. What's more, while a number of stakeholders (local authorities, *France Travail*, *Action Logement*, *Maison des Saisonniers*, etc.) act as intermediaries between seasonal accommodation-seekers and potential landlords, their effectiveness is limited by the significant gap between strong demand and very limited supply.

Employers of seasonal workers and local authorities concerned tend to pass the responsibility for finding solutions onto each other. Employers, like the trade unions, do not want accommodation to be a compulsory part of the employment contract, and local authorities believe that it is up to employers to meet their needs.

The Court therefore recommends that, by 2026, a sub-function dedicated to the accommodation of seasonal workers be introduced into the budgetary and functional accounting nomenclatures of the local authorities; and that this year an assessment of the implementation of agreements relating to the accommodation of

seasonal workers be finalised and, at the same time, guidelines be formulated for the departmental prefects to follow.

Mobilising and coordinating action levers need to be strengthened

Local authorities and their public institutions are in the front line when it comes to producing accommodation for seasonal workers. However, due to the lack of land opportunities in high-demand areas, environmental and town-planning constraints, and the contraction of local budgets, the projects undertaken are modest in relation to the needs identified and the stated objectives.

Certain segments of the social housing stock (social residences, young workers' hostels) can be used for them, but in the end these places are never allocated as a priority to seasonal workers; similarly, with a few exceptions, boarding schools or university residence halls are not very suitable for accommodating seasonal workers.

One of the areas for progress is to improve the financial solvency of seasonal workers, with, in addition to the public guarantee system provided by the *Visale* card (*Action Logement*), an effective guarantee of access to housing assistance and special attention to adapting the conditions of access to social housing for seasonal workers. In this context, some employers are increasingly investing in accommodation for their own seasonal workers, when local authorities alone are unable to provide the necessary solutions. Experimentation with new solutions in coastal communities is growing, such as temporary light housing in transitional areas or campsites.

Above all, it is vital to clarify governance, in the broadest sense of the term, so as to encourage the combination of public and private action. This clarification involves the express definition of the responsibilities of public authorities (the inclusion of housing for seasonal workers in the "housing" remit of local authorities), a boost to the State's steering capacity (assessment of the implementation of agreements to promote housing for seasonal workers in tourist areas) and the promotion of structured initiatives (seasonal workers' centres, cooperation between employers and the territories concerned, etc.).

[Read the report](#)

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