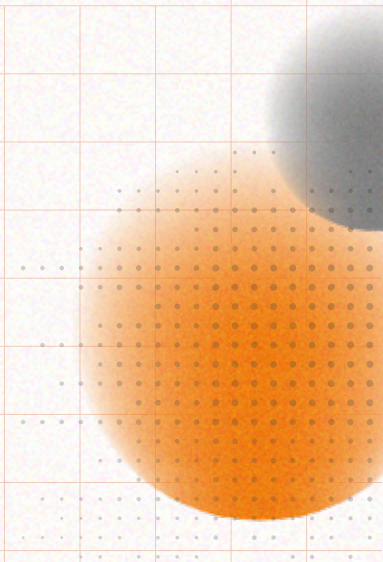


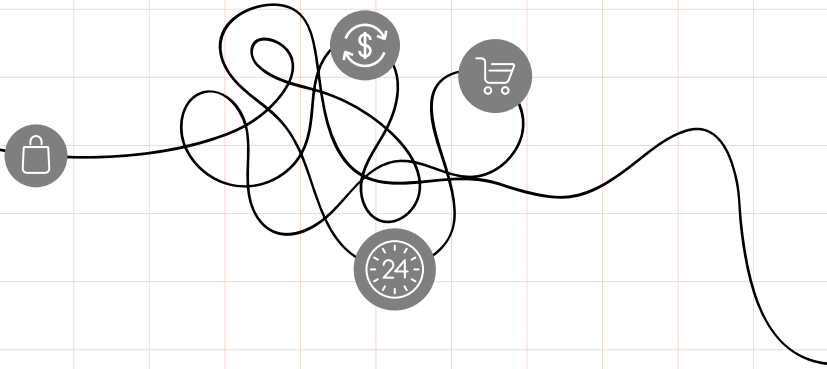
Peak Season, Simplified

How to untangle logistical
knots and prepare your warehouse
for the busy holiday season

Ideally, the time to begin planning for peak season is immediately after the last one ends, when the challenges and pain points are still fresh in your mind.

You know how it goes: launching new products, planning for the right amount of stock, figuring out where to store it all, managing stressed pick operators and constantly worrying about fulfilling orders on time. Peak season brings a surge in sales, but it also exposes the cracks in your warehouse operations.





What makes peak season so challenging?

Labor

Increased workloads lead to staff burnout, absenteeism, attrition and difficulty finding temporary workers.

Space Constraints

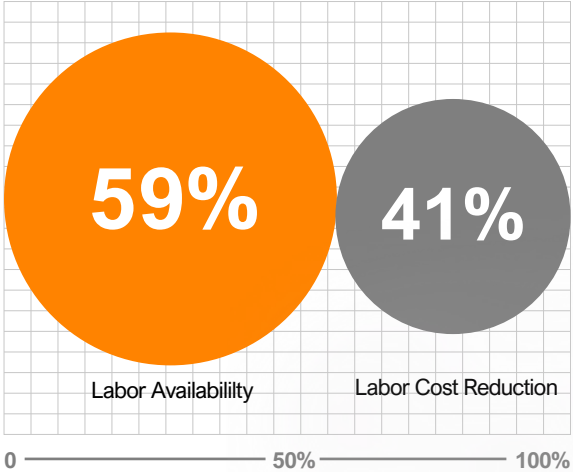
The surge in orders, in conjunction with limited storage space, creates a logistical nightmare for warehouses.

Quality Standards

Peak comes with a frenzy to fulfill orders - resultant delays and errors can damage customer satisfaction and brand reputation.

The National Retail Federation estimates that retailers hire between **345,000 and 450,000** seasonal workers each year.¹

Top Motivators for Cyber-Physical Automation



Source: 2022 Gartner Supply Chain Technology User Wants and Needs Survey

Source 1: <https://nrf.com/research/monthly-economic-review-november-2023>



So, what's a warehouse to do?

Relying solely on additional manpower for peak periods isn't sustainable. Challenges in finding (and retaining) qualified temporary workers and the error-prone nature of manual processes underscore the need for automation.

To meet customer expectations, handle increased stock levels and ensure fulfillment consistency, industry leaders are prioritizing automation solutions. Instead of simply adding more staff, they are leveraging robotics and AI software to boost throughput and ease workforce burdens. Here's how to get started:



Step

01

Evaluate automation readiness

Analyze past peak seasons – order basket sizes, average number of SKUs per order, etc. – and **forecast** what future peaks might look like with robotic assistance. **Plan** layout and infrastructure changes for advanced solutions or make minimal adjustments for simpler options.



Build the business case

Define and categorize your peak season objectives based on the impact of six key attributes facilitated by automation:



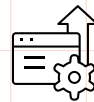
Scalability

The ability of automated systems to adapt and expand efficiently in response to changing demand and volume.



Productivity (Efficiency)

Streamlined processes and higher output rates.



Software Compatibility

The need to upgrade WMS or an opportunity to leverage a WES at a much lower cost.



Accuracy

Increased precision and fewer errors in tasks and operations.



Service Levels/Quality

Adherence to or ability to exceed standards of service and product quality.



Cost

The optimization of expenses and resource utilization through automation



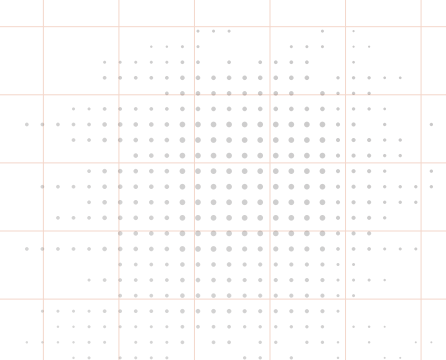
Safety

Enhanced workplace safety and risk mitigation through automation.



Reliability

Consistent and dependable performance of automated systems.



Step
03

Find the right technology

During peak seasons, surging demand can stress warehouse technology and systems. Outdated software may result in slowdowns or crashes, disrupting operations. A robust Warehouse Execution System (WES) can harmonize work across various warehouse flows, efficiently driving desired fulfillment outcomes by orchestrating people, bots and processes.

Most of all, future readiness is paramount for successful implementation. Integrating a Multi-Agent Orchestration layer (MAO) alongside your Warehouse Execution System (WES) streamlines operations by effectively managing multiple integrations, alleviating the hassle associated with diverse system coordination.



Visit solution.greyorange.com to explore our suite of robust products and automation solutions.

Or, schedule a call with one of our automation experts for more in-depth information.



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