

LFS & APS User Update

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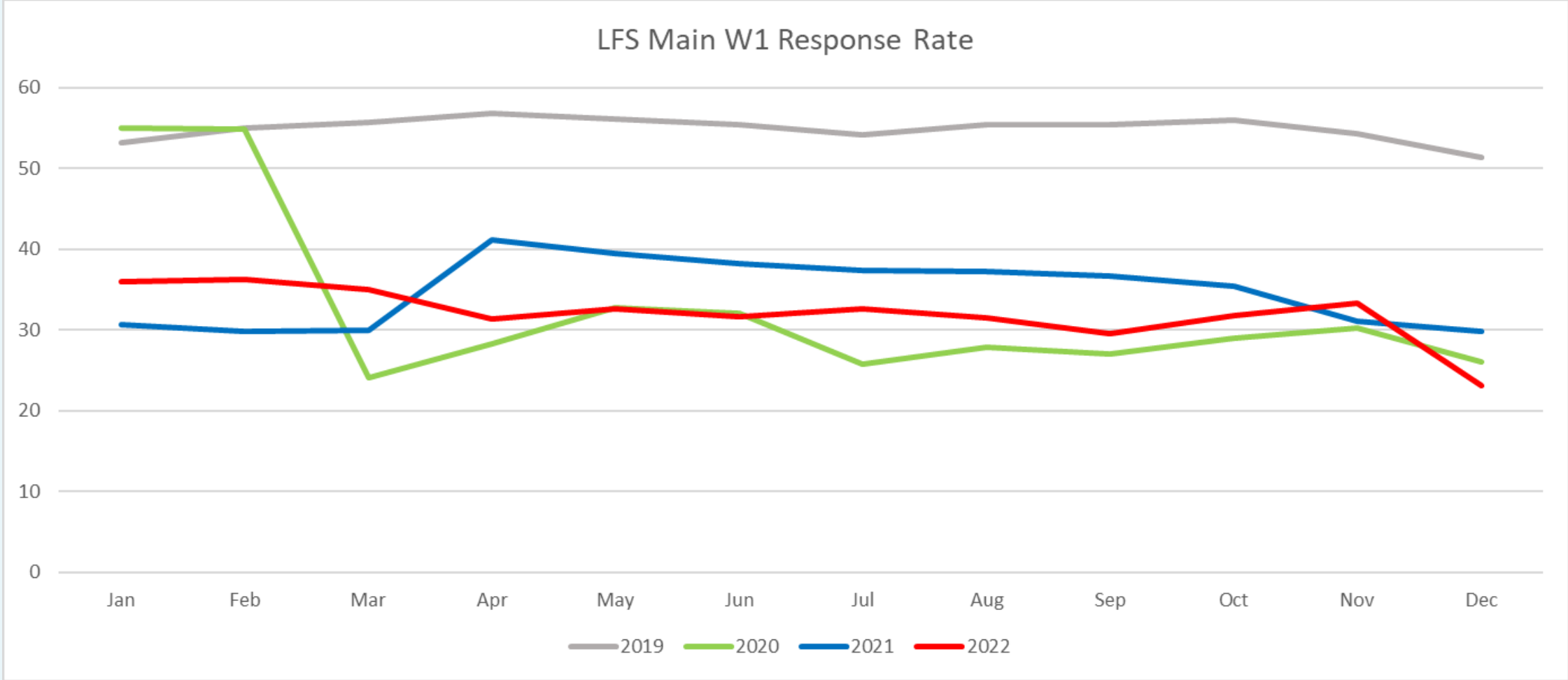
UKDS Annual LFS/APS User Conference 2023

Outline

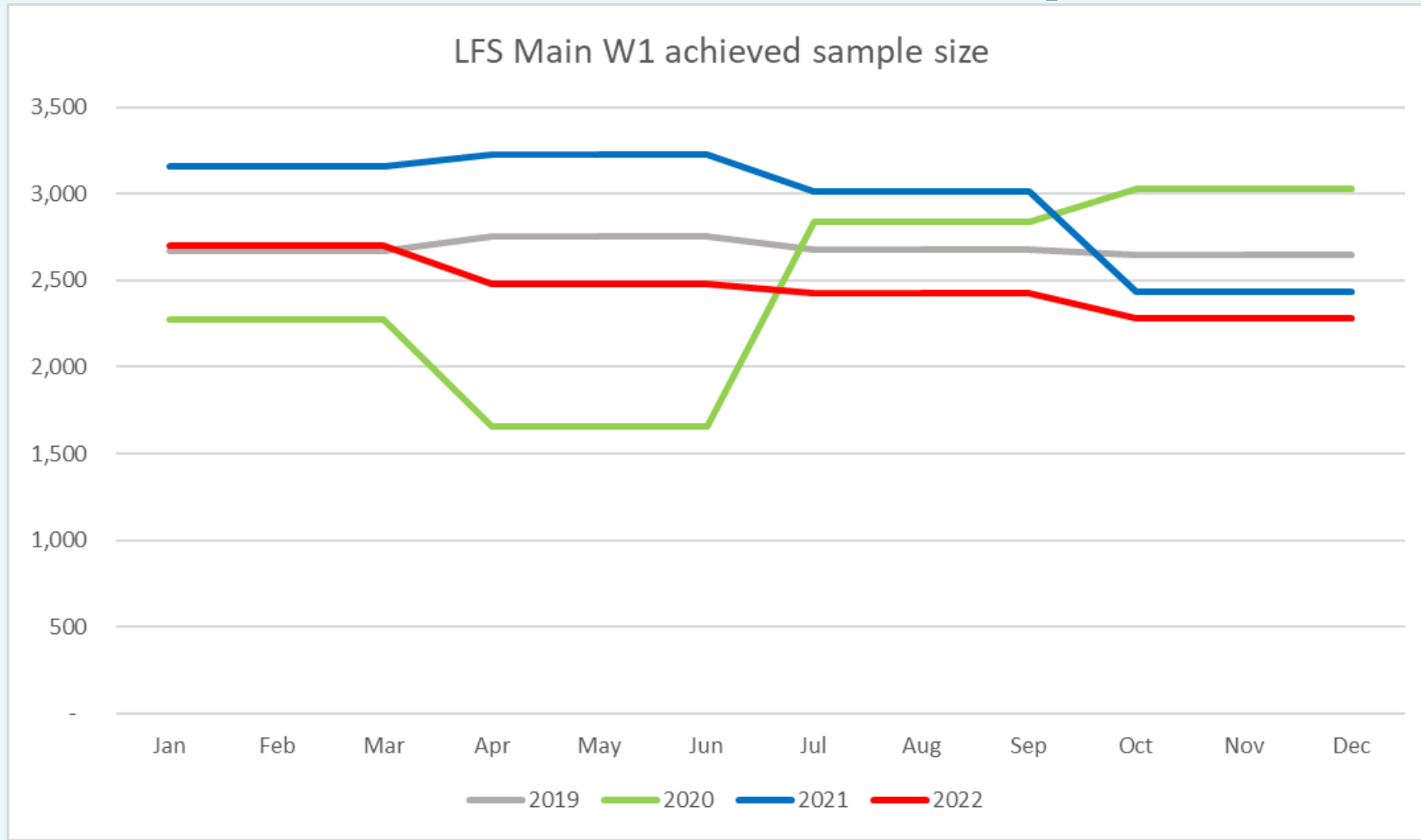
- Data collection
- Reweighting
- SOC coding
- Transition to transformed LFS

Data Collection

LFS Main W1 response rates 2019-2022

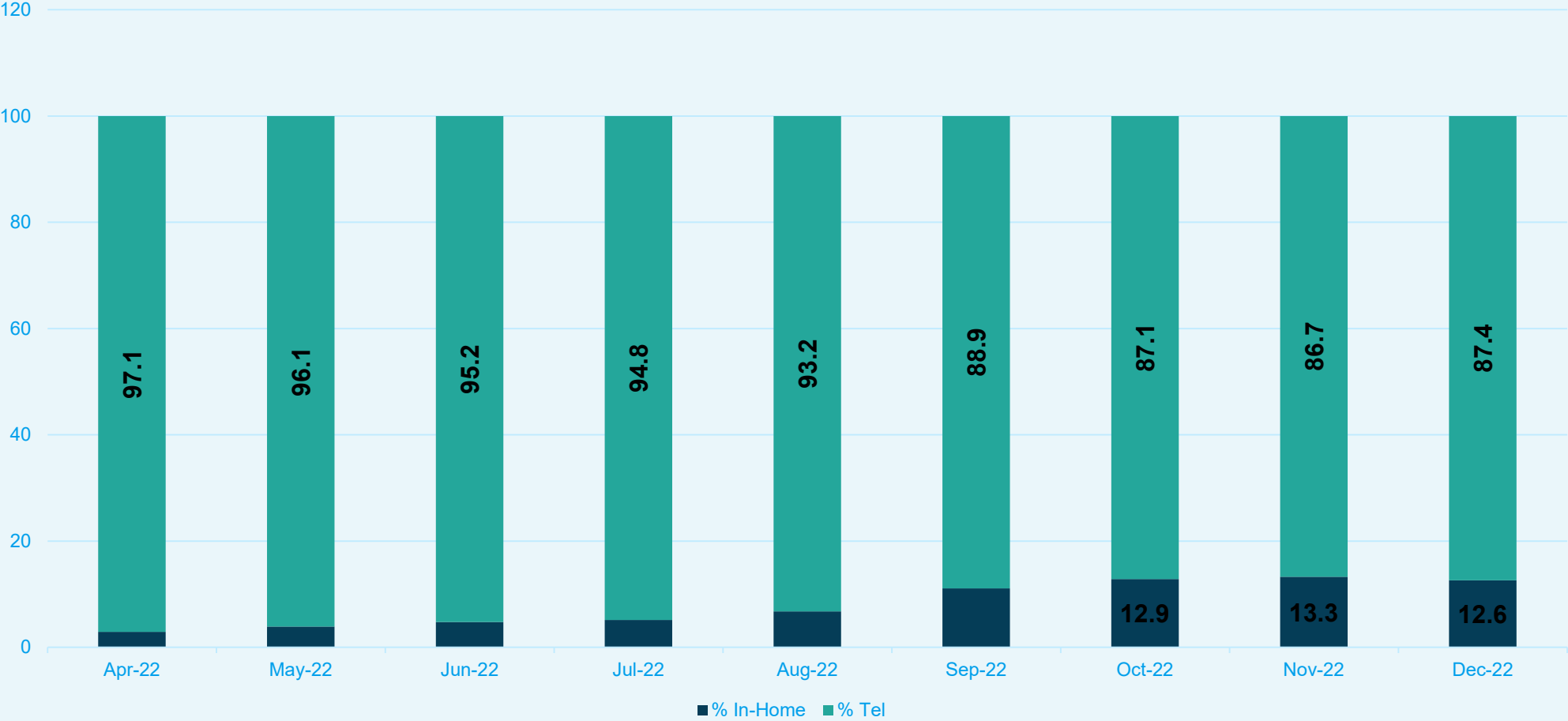


LFS Main W1 achieved sample 2019-2022



In-home (F2F) vs. Telephone interviewing in 2022

LFS W1 In-Home Vs Telephone Interviews



What is impacting on response?

- External factors
 - Expectations of respondents have changed since the pandemic – more people are requesting online completion
 - Expectations of interviewers have changed since the pandemic – more difficult to recruit
 - Other external factors (e.g. RM strike)
- Capacity is stretched
 - Market for interviewer recruits has changed since the pandemic
 - Logistics for interviewers more complex - different approaches to return to face-to-face interviewing (LFS only as an exception to maintain stability for the dual run with TLFS)
 - Competing priorities

What to expect going forward?

- Users are asked to apply caution when using APS datasets for low level analysis. Whilst the LFS main sample has been increased over time to account for low response rates, the boost sample has not changed and has therefore suffered more from the drop in response.
- ONS is currently reviewing priorities for face-to-face data collection to focus our field force more efficiently and effectively
- Measures are put in place to improve recruitment, onboarding and training process for new interviewers

Reweighting

Up until 2020...

- Data was reweighted every two years using the latest population projections
- The mode change from face-to-face to telephone interviews introduced a bias in the data
 - More owner occupiers than renters participated
 - Split between UK-born and non-UK-born population
- Since then reweighting was conducted annually adjusting the calibration for tenure (2020) and using population growth rates (2021/2022) from the HMRC RTI data (which has its limitations)
- The latest round of reweighting is almost complete with APS W1 weights to be released mid-March this year.

2023 onwards

- New RTI data expected to be available in Spring 2023
- Discussions ongoing about a potential further RTI-based reweighting exercise (post transition)
- Consideration also given to the need for a Census-based reweighting exercise once population projections for England, Wales and Scotland are available (not expected before 2024)
- Any further reweighting plans need be considered alongside the transition to the transformed LFS and its new estimation methodology going forward

SOC Coding Issue

Background

- We published two announcements: [original 18th Jul](#) and [update 15 Aug](#) about an error we identified with collection of occupational data affecting our social surveys caused by updating the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) from SOC 2010 to [SOC 2020](#).
- We knew what the problem was, that it mainly affected lower-level breakdowns (ie four-digit SOC) not headline statistics (ie one-digit SOC), but not details on the specific occupations affected nor the scale of impact.
- Following huge amount of analytical work on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), an [article](#) was published presenting the approaches understand the scale of impact, and a timeline to fix the problem.

Methodology

To evaluate the impact of the error, we conducted:

- Review of the SOC coding index (~30,000 individual job titles) and the “additional information” to identify which codes were affected
- Comparison of survey respondents’ responses in the Oct-Dec wave of the LFS against those same respondents’ responses in Jan-Mar wave
- Comparison of LFS responses linked against Census responses for comparable time period
- Comparison of existing coding against results of automated recoding and initial clerical coding that will be used to correct the issue

Findings (1/2)

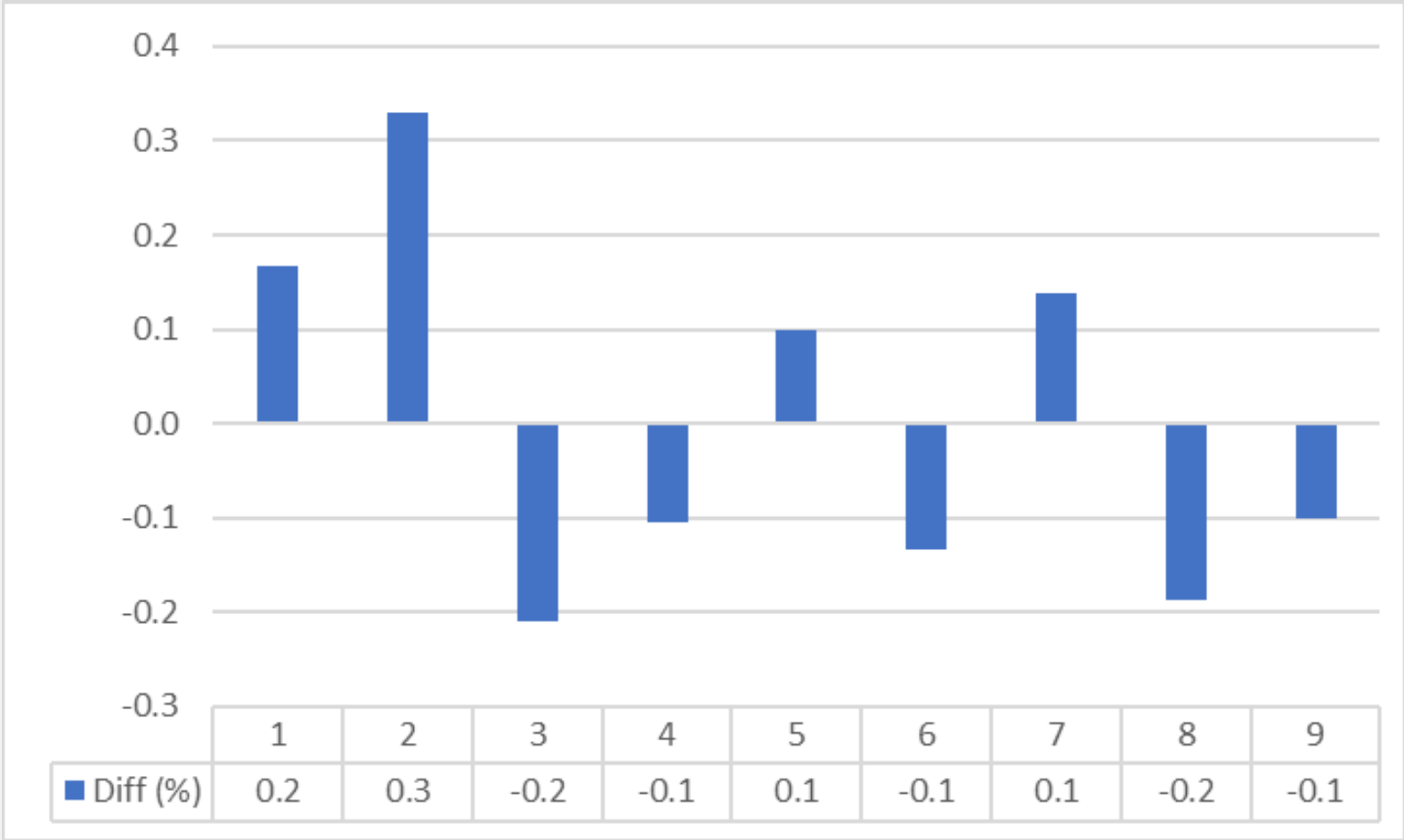
List of all 412 four-digit unit group occupations categorized by degree of impact (very low to very high) summarised in the article by this table:

Level of impact	Number of SOC2020 codes	Percentage (%) of all SOC2020 codes
Low impact (<5% affected)	113	27.4
Moderate impact (5% to 50% affected)	90	21.8
High impact (>50% affected)	209	50.7

Findings (2/2)

Estimated net change to one-digit SOC results if we apply re-coding to individual survey records

(overall very little change which matches previous announcements)



Outcomes

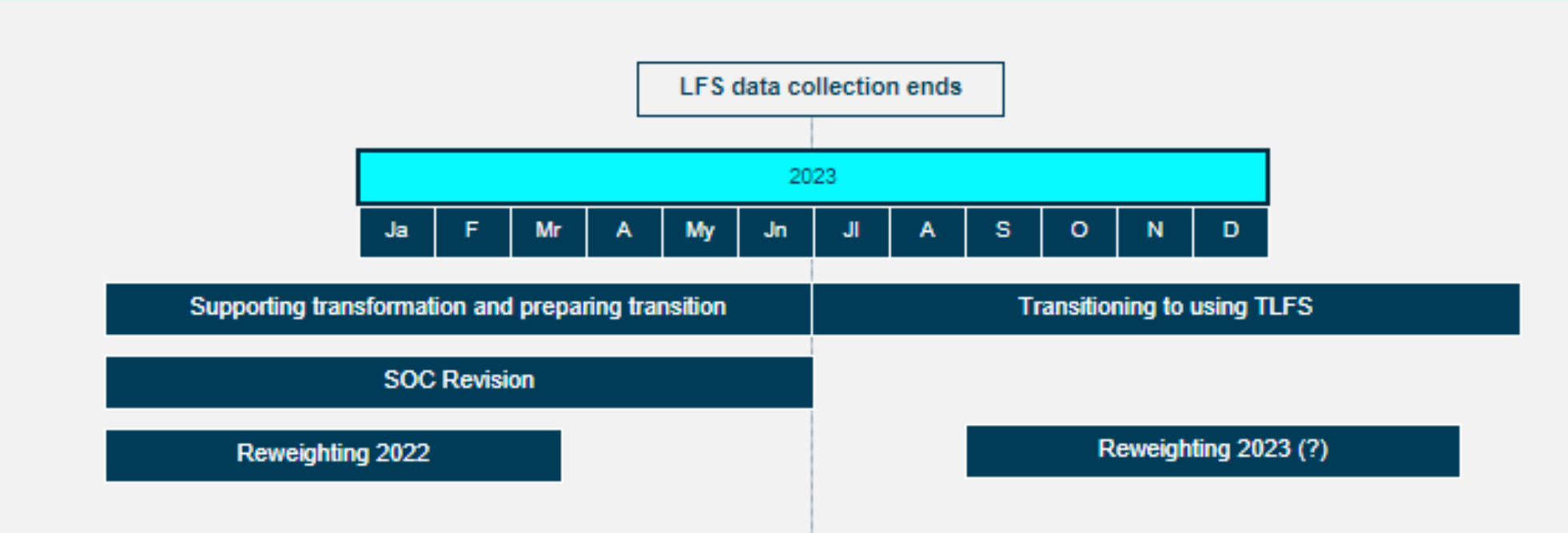
- The recoding of SOC codes and revision datasets is currently under way.
- This work will continue as we actively recode survey responses for all affected waves of data collection, which will take approx. 6 months
New LFS and APS datasets, and revised LMHD outputs, with all occupation variables corrected estimated to release in Spring 2023
- The work is currently on track for this release timeline.

Transition to Transformed LFS

Decommissioning plans of the LFS

- Aim to decommission the LFS/APS (all waves) with the end of June 2023
- Decision to decommission expected in March/April 2023
- Respondents to be informed that they will not be contacted for further waves
- All datasets covering the latest period (AJ23 to be processed as usual) with the exception of:
 - APS Household JD2023
 - APS 2yr longitudinal 2022-23
 - APS 3yr pooled 2020-2023

Timeline of events



To prepare for the transition...

Users are advised to:

- Read up on already published user guides:
 - [Background user guide](#)
 - [Variable mapping user guide](#)
 - [Dummy dataset](#)
- Further user guides to be provided in the run up to the transition:
 - DV user guide
 - Up-date to background user guide
 - Data set user guide
- Over the course of the transition ONS plan to publish labour market estimates from the dual run

Thank you

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