

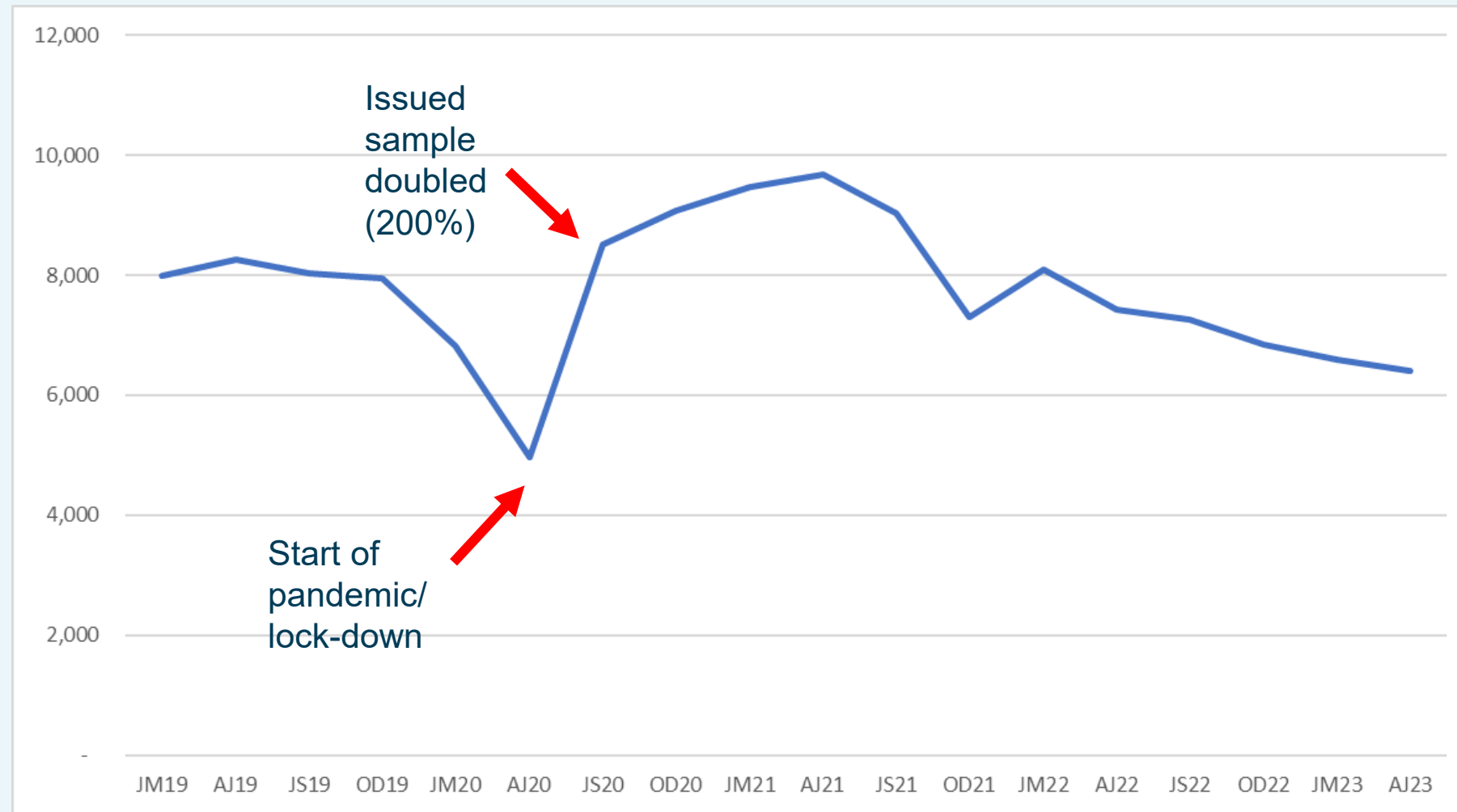
LFS & APS User Update

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UKDS Annual LFS/APS User Conference
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Data Collection

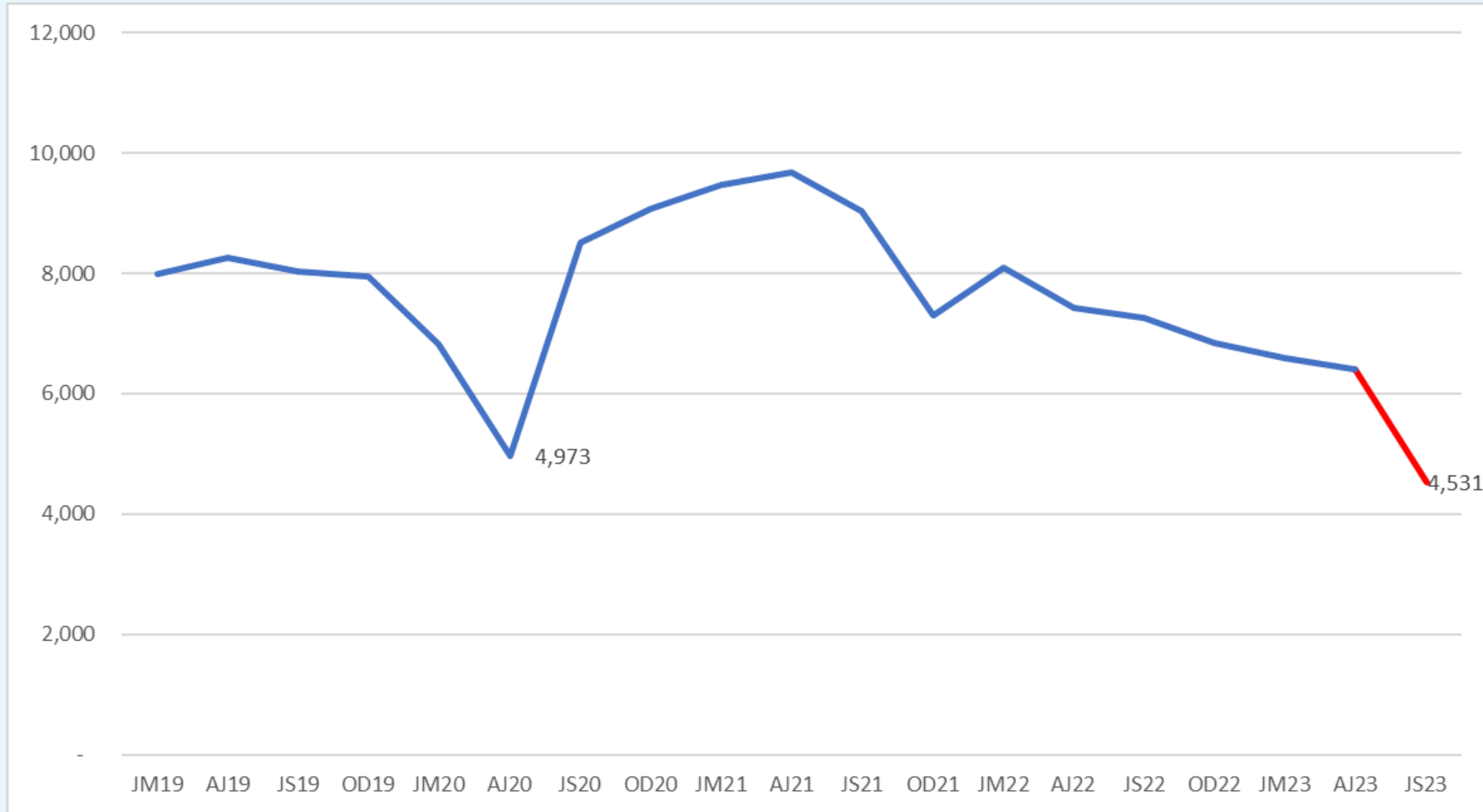
LFS achieved households – Main W1 2019-2023



Data collection on the LFS in a post Covid world on route to TLFS transition

- Interviewer roles changed during and post Covid
- Expectations of interviewers changed
- Recruitment and retainment of interviewers has become more challenging
- Competing data collection priorities
- Mid 2023 – decision to extend the dual run of LFS and TLFS

LFS achieved households – Main W1 2019-2023



LFS recovery action plan (as of October)

Data collection interventions

- Phase 1**
 - Re-introduced in-home interviewing from 25/10
 - From 06/11 re-issuing unproductive cases
 - Directing more experienced field staff to LFS, backfilling with agency on less critical surveys
- Phase 2**
 - Increasing field hours by offering Sunday working
 - Increasing hours in Telephone Ops to focus follow-up for wave 2 onwards for 16-24 year olds
 - Targeted comms to raise the profile of the ONS and the importance of taking part in our surveys – with a focus on 16-24 year old demographic
- Phase 3**
 - Increased respondent incentives to £10 and £50.
 - Everything in place to reintroduce the COVID sample boost of 8,000 from January, if required.

Methodological interventions

- Developing and testing**
 - Update LFS weighting framework in line with TLFS; remove RTI, add Census 21 Tenure pre-calibration step, update population totals
 - Improve LFS non-response adjustment (exploring admin, TLFS, Census)
 - Investigate using a model-based approach with RTI/Claimant counts
 - Re-run LFS with updated RTI/Tenure distributions

TLFS is the future

- Transforming**
 - Launch the TLFS in 2024
 - TLFS survey performance is encouraging:
 - Improved response rates
 - Response rates for most deprived areas 50% higher than LFS
 - Continue working with stakeholders to ensure needs are met and quality is sufficient

LFS recovery action plan (as of January)

Data collection interventions

Done

Re-introduced in-home interviewing from 25/10

~~From 06/11 re-issuing unproductive cases~~

Directing more experienced field staff to LFS, backfilling with agency on less critical surveys

Increasing field hours by offering Sunday working

Increasing hours in Telephone Ops to focus follow-up for wave 2 onwards for 16-24 year olds

Targeted comms to raise the profile of the ONS and the importance of taking part in our surveys – with a focus on 16-24 year old demographic

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Everything in place to reintroduce the COVID sample boost of 8,000 from January, if required.

Methodological interventions

Done and Doing

Update LFS weighting framework in line with TLFS; remove RTI, add Census 21 Tenure pre-calibration step, update population totals

Improve LFS non-response adjustment (exploring admin, TLFS, Census)

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TLFS is the future

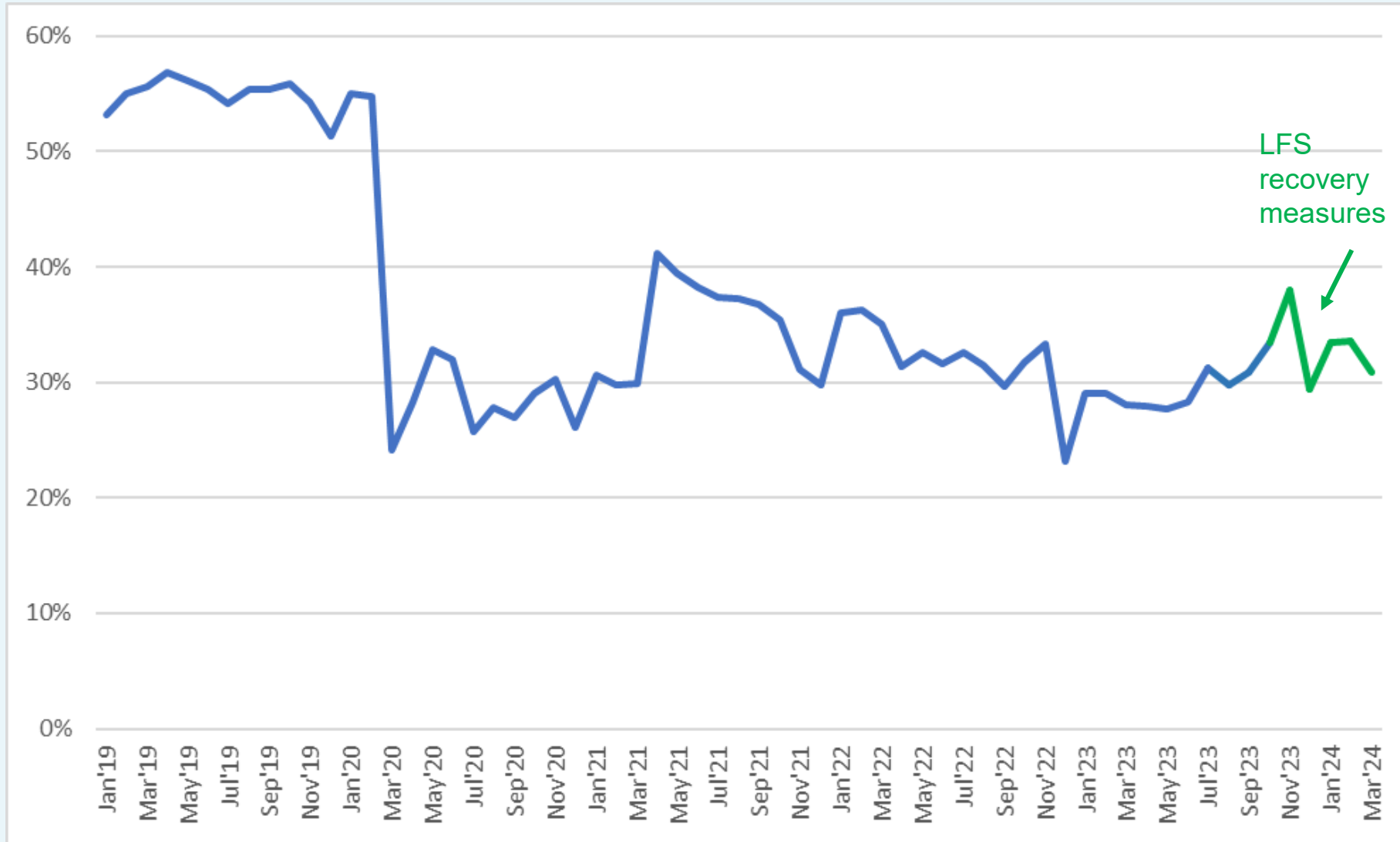
Transforming

Launch the TLFS in 2024:

TLFS survey performance is encouraging:

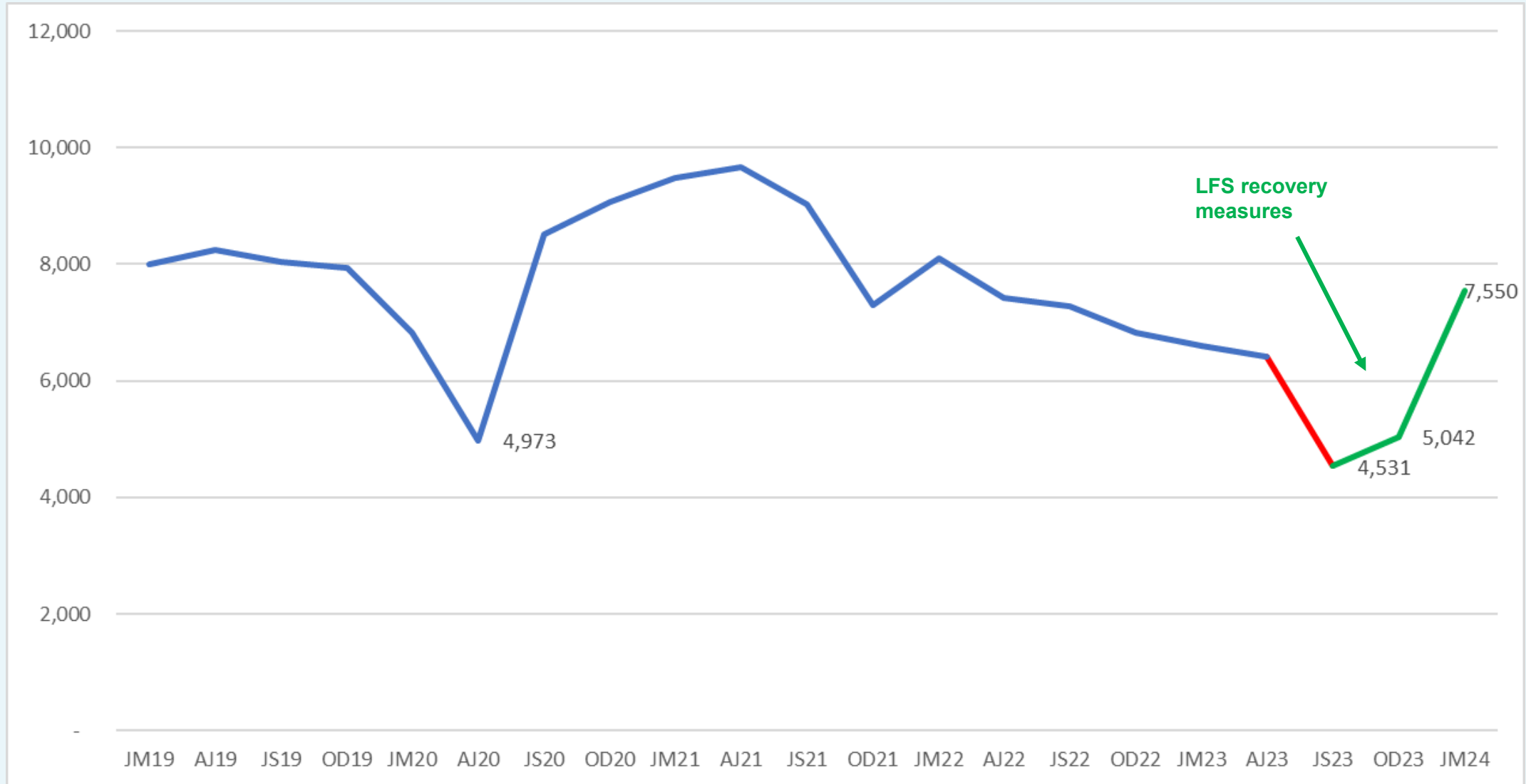
- Improved response rates
- Response rates for most deprived areas 50% higher than LFS
- Continue working with stakeholders to ensure needs are met and quality is sufficient

LFS response rates – Main W1 2019-2024



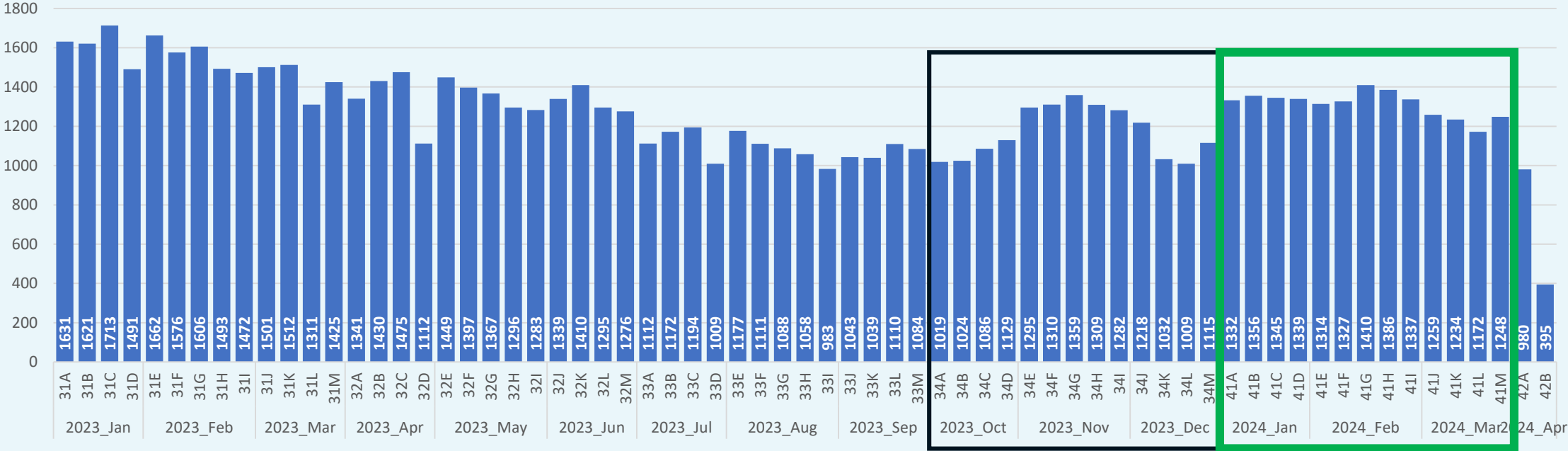
- LFS recovery measures continued during Oct-Dec'23 and Jan-Mar'24 quarter.
- Oct 33.4% Jan 33.5%
Nov 38.0% Feb 33.6%
Dec 29.4% Mar 30.9%
- Response rate Jan-Mar'24 is based on boosted sample
- Response rate in March lower due to Easter bank holidays and end of leave year for interviewers

LFS achieved households – Main W1 2019-2024



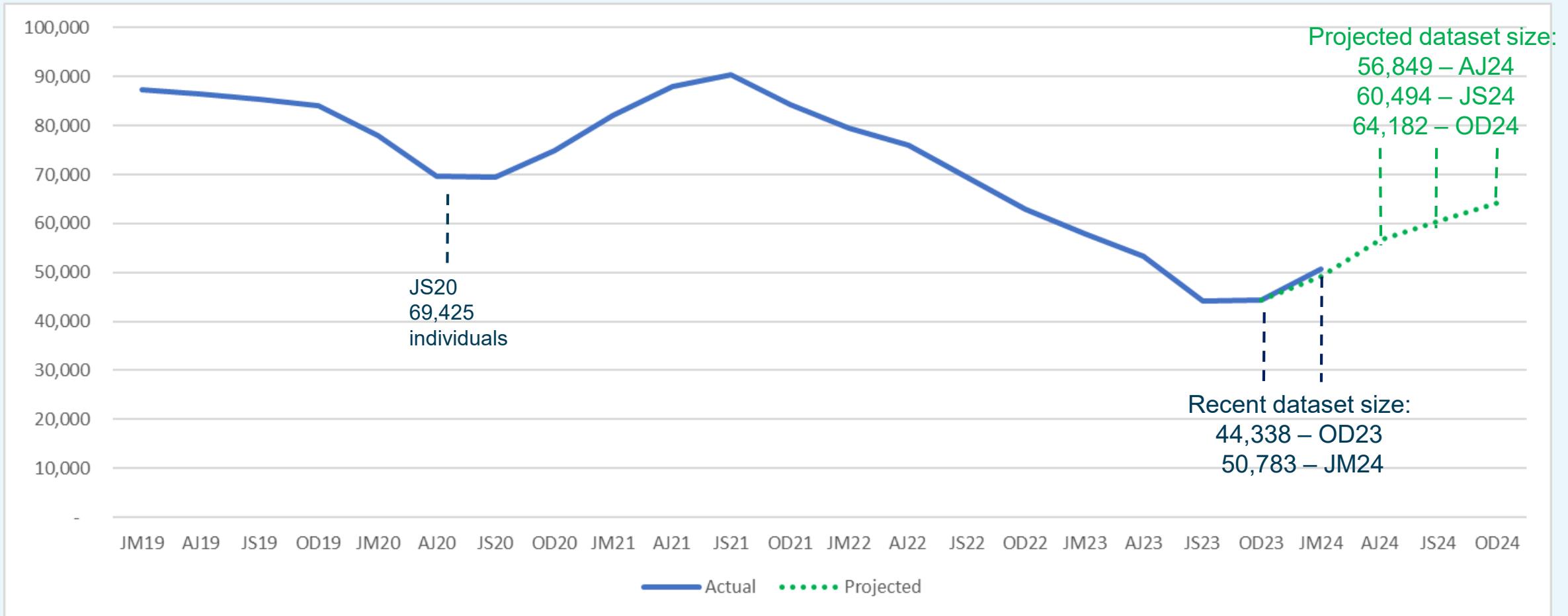
Weekly Response Counts – LFS Main W1-5

LFS Main Achieved Interviews - Wave 1-5 by Week



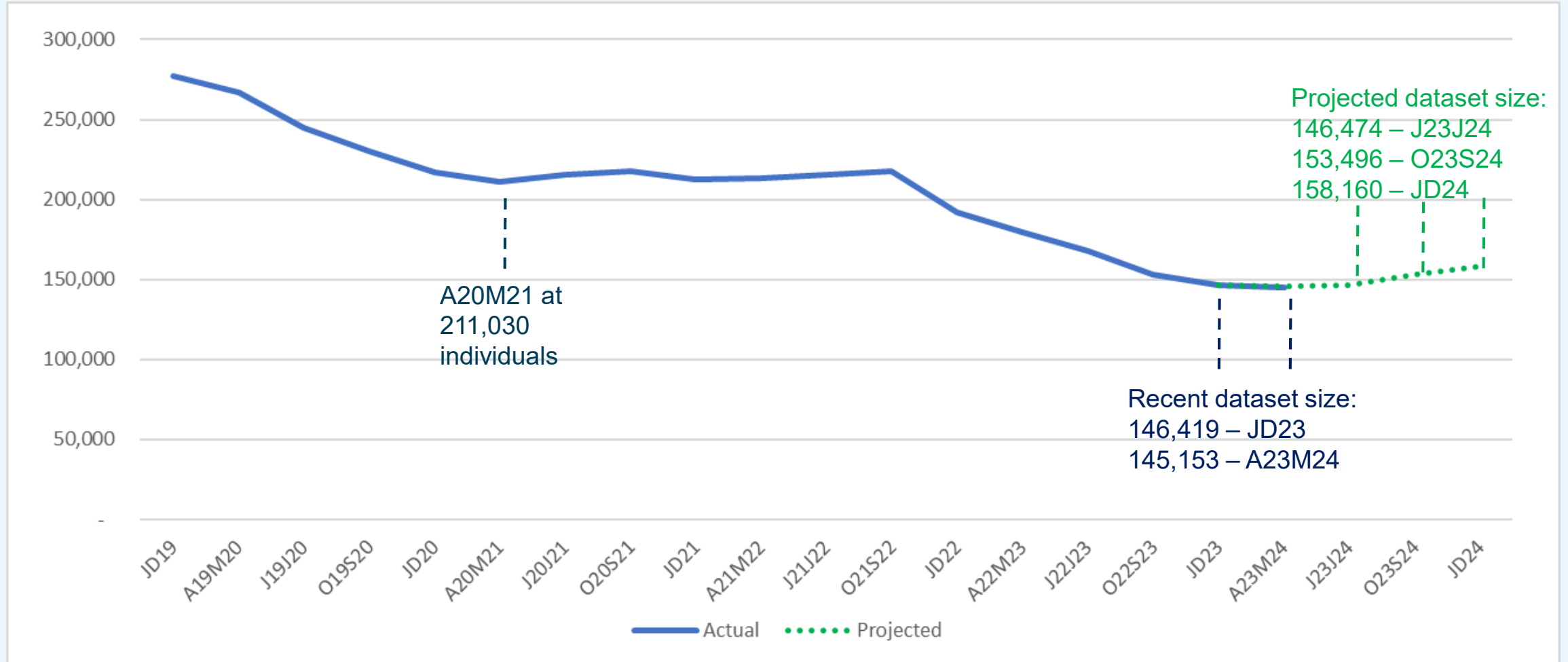
LFS Person quarterly dataset JM19 - OD24

(inc. main W1-W5)



APS Person rolling annual dataset 2019-2024

(inc. main & boost)



What to expect going forward?

- Data collection for the April-June quarter is in progress incl. the continuation of the recovery measures.
- ONS continues to recruit and increase the interviewer community to improve field capacity
- A decision on the decommissioning of the LFS is expected in the coming weeks
- Preparations for the July-September quarter continue until a decision has been made (e.g. sample size to be continued at the current level)

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)

Original LFS person weighting

- The current LFS weighting system relies on age, sex, geographical information, country of birth growth rate adjustment and 2019 based tenure distribution taken from LFS.
- Population totals in the current LFS weighting system are based on 2018-based population projections and then further adjusted using HMRC employment growth rates on previous year same quarter data.
- Since up-to-date HMRC RTI information is not available in a timely fashion and it only covers employment characteristics, the LFS weighting for rolling month quarterly data was challenging.

Updated LFS person weighting

- A further reweighting exercise was conducted as part of the recovery measures, covering the LFS back series data for 14 rolling quarters (from AO22 to SN23) using age, sex, geographical information, and tenure distribution (based on 2021 census).
- The RTI constraint was removed as it was based on outdated numbers and the latest population totals (available at the end of 2023) were used to ensure we represent the demographics distribution as accurately as possible.
- This method is also more closely aligned with the TLFS weighting as both use the same population totals, making comparisons more straightforward and helping with TLFS discontinuity work.
- The reweighted LFS person weights covering the periods JS22 to OD23 were released in February this year.
- Several options are being debated to build on this interim reweighting, by extending the back series, taking on more recent population estimates, and/or extending to additional LFS outputs.

Questions?

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