

LFS & APS User Update

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ONS Social Surveys

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What this up-date will cover?

- Up-dates to the LFS/APS since January 2020
- Changes to the LFS/APS since the start of the pandemic
 - Addressing policy needs to measure the impact of the pandemic
 - Implications of pandemic on the survey and measures taken to address these
- What is in the pipeline for 2021?

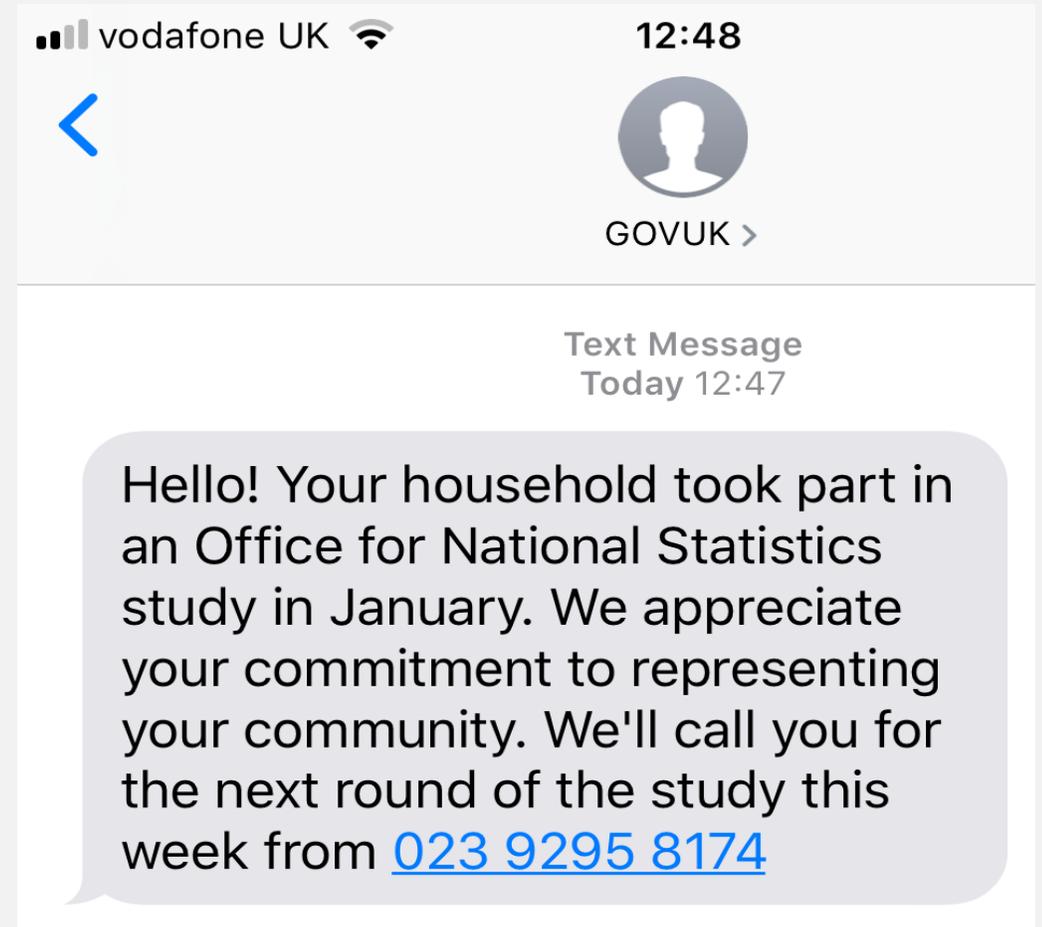
Up-dates to the LFS/APS since Jan'20

Questionnaire up-dates JM20

- New questions covering the **quality of work** (opportunities for career progression, involvement in decision making)
- New categories added to existing questions to cover reasons for **less hours worked** than usual (yless6/yless20) and **less pay than usual** (ypay1/ypay120)
- Ad-hoc module on **accident and health**
- ‘Pregnancy problems’ has become its own category in the **sick absence question**, and Autism as well as related conditions were added to the list of **health conditions**
- Questions on **civil partnerships** were extended to include heterosexual couples
- **Flex10** (flexible work contracts) rolled out to all waves and boost. Added further guidance to Flex10 regarding shift workers

Other survey changes in JM20

- £10 unconditional incentive following trials
- Text messages as **in-between wave contact** for W2+ cases issued to Telephone Operations



Changes to the LFS/APS since the start of the pandemic

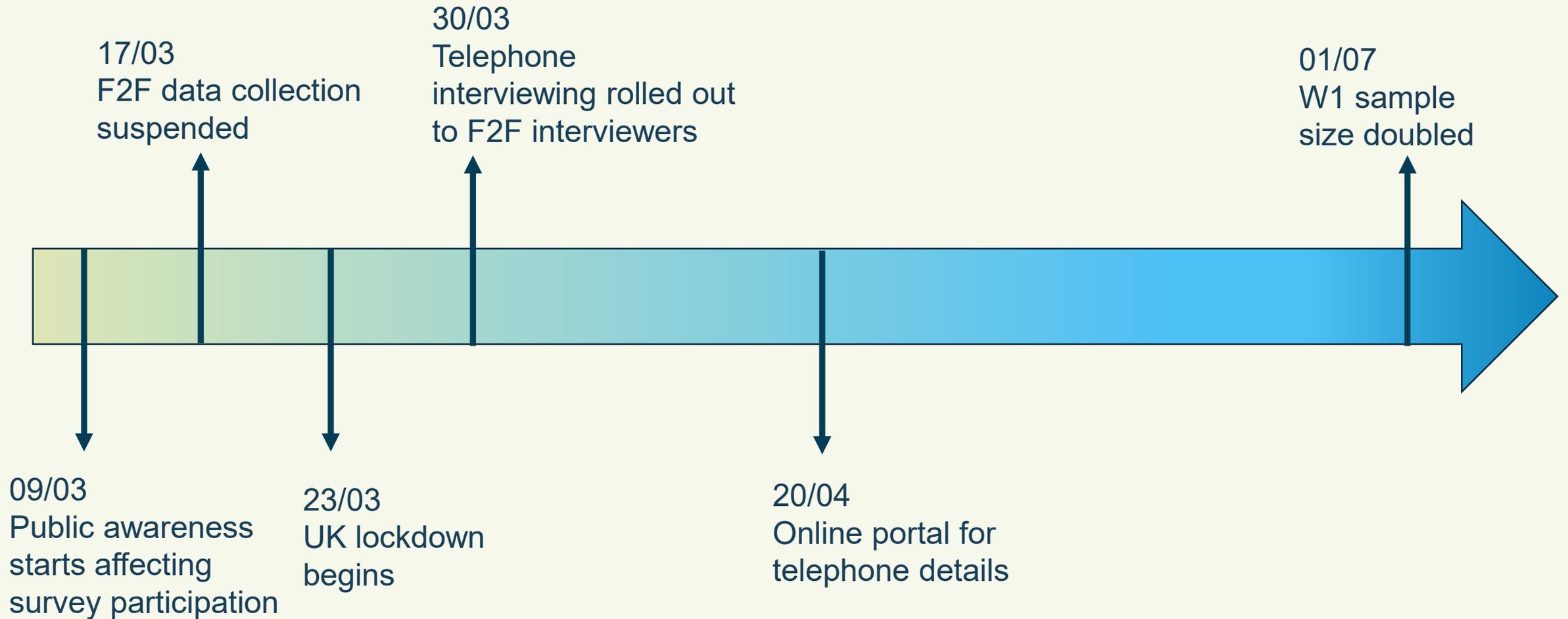
Questionnaire up-dates AJ20

- **Sickness absence**
- Reasons respondent was **away from work** or **worked fewer hours** in the reference week
- Reasons respondent **worked more hours than usual** in the reference week
- **State benefits**
- Reasons why the respondent was **paid less than usual**
- **Passport questions**

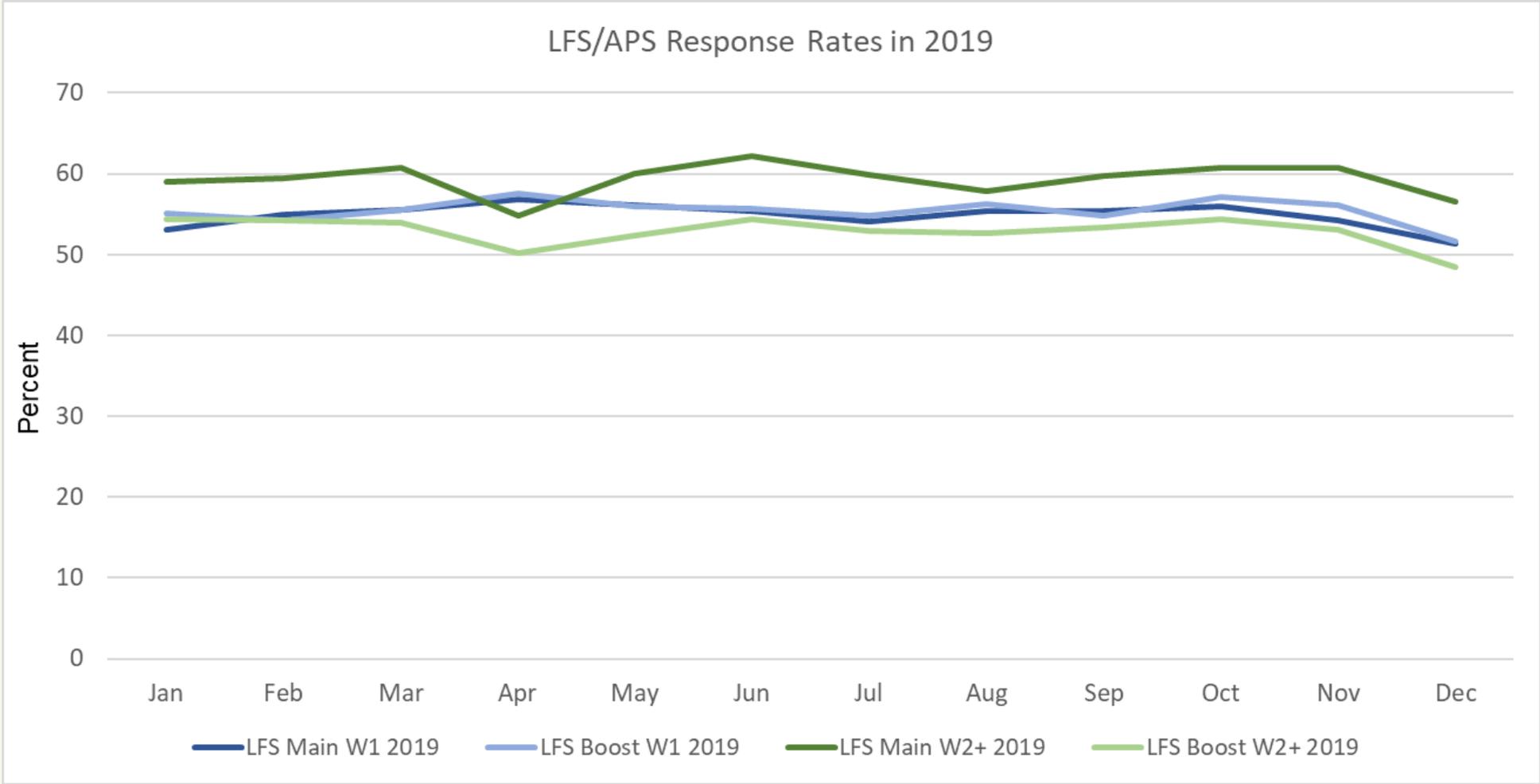
Questionnaire up-dates JS20

- **New categories and guidance** for coro20b2, coro20b3 & coco20b4
- **New routing and additional guidance** added to home working questions
- **New COVID questions** added to occupation, second job, additional work, redundancy, starting work, and universal credit section
- Question **Coroben20** was removed

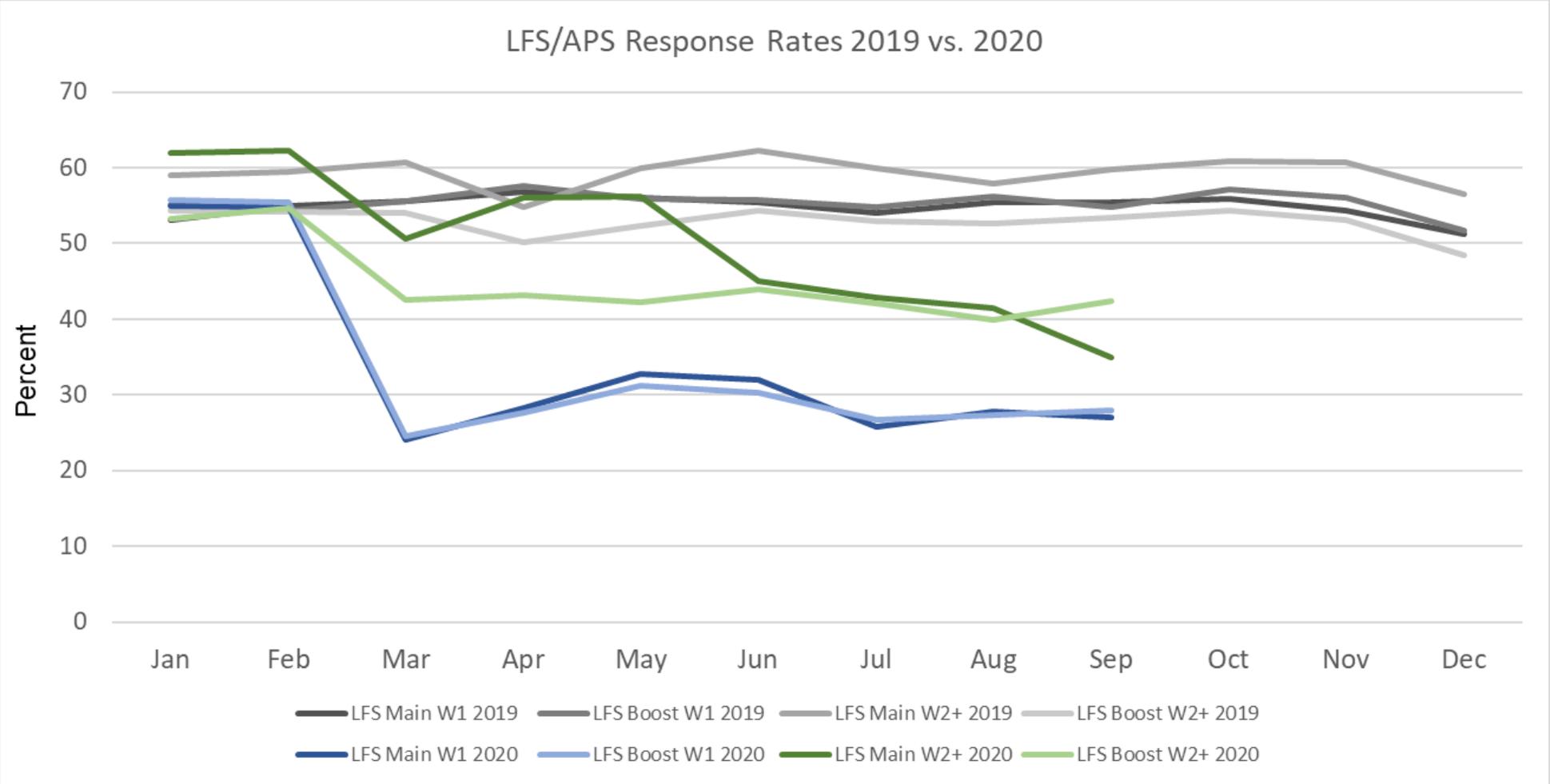
Timeline of events



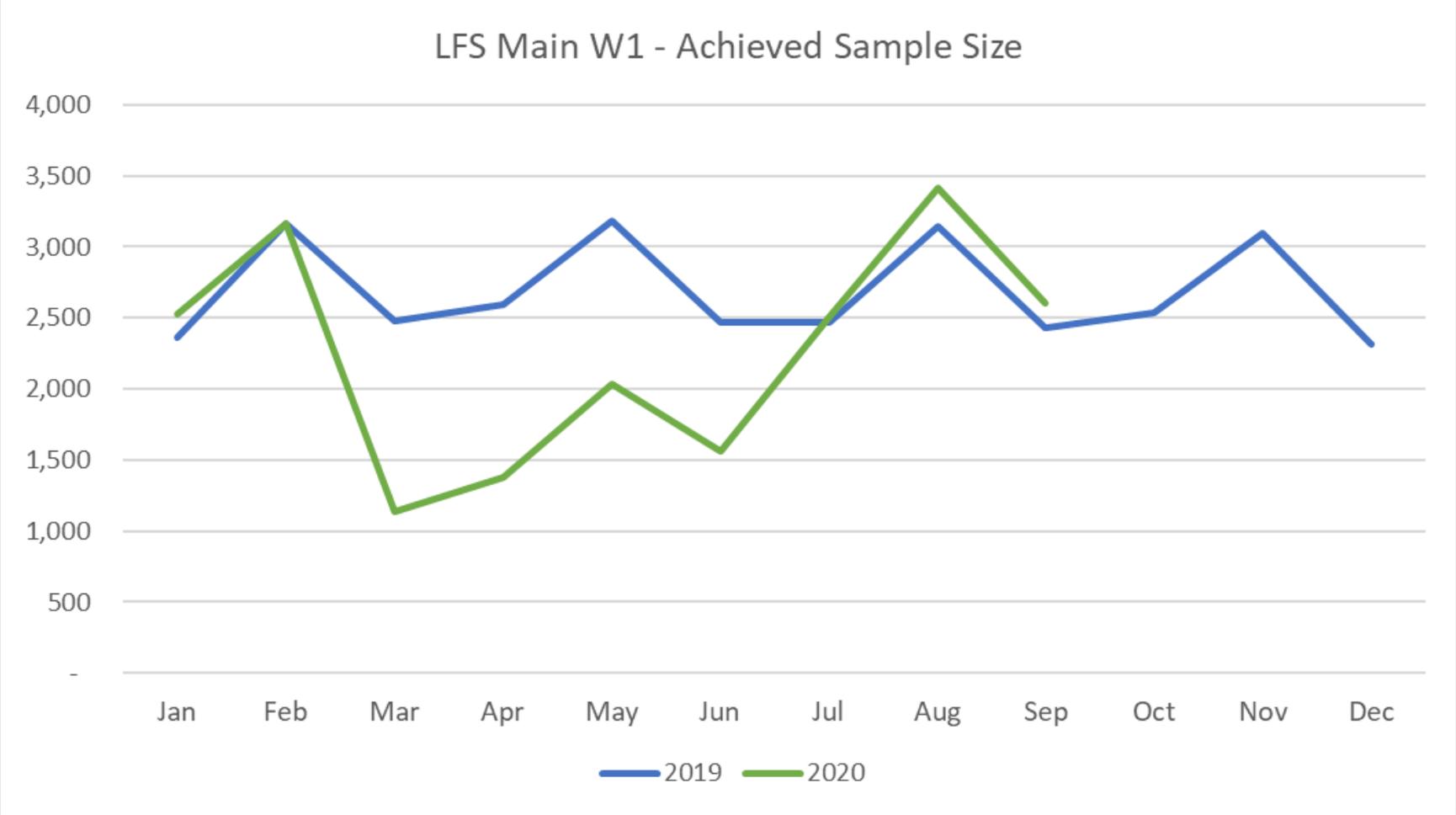
Impact of COVID-19 on LFS Response Rates



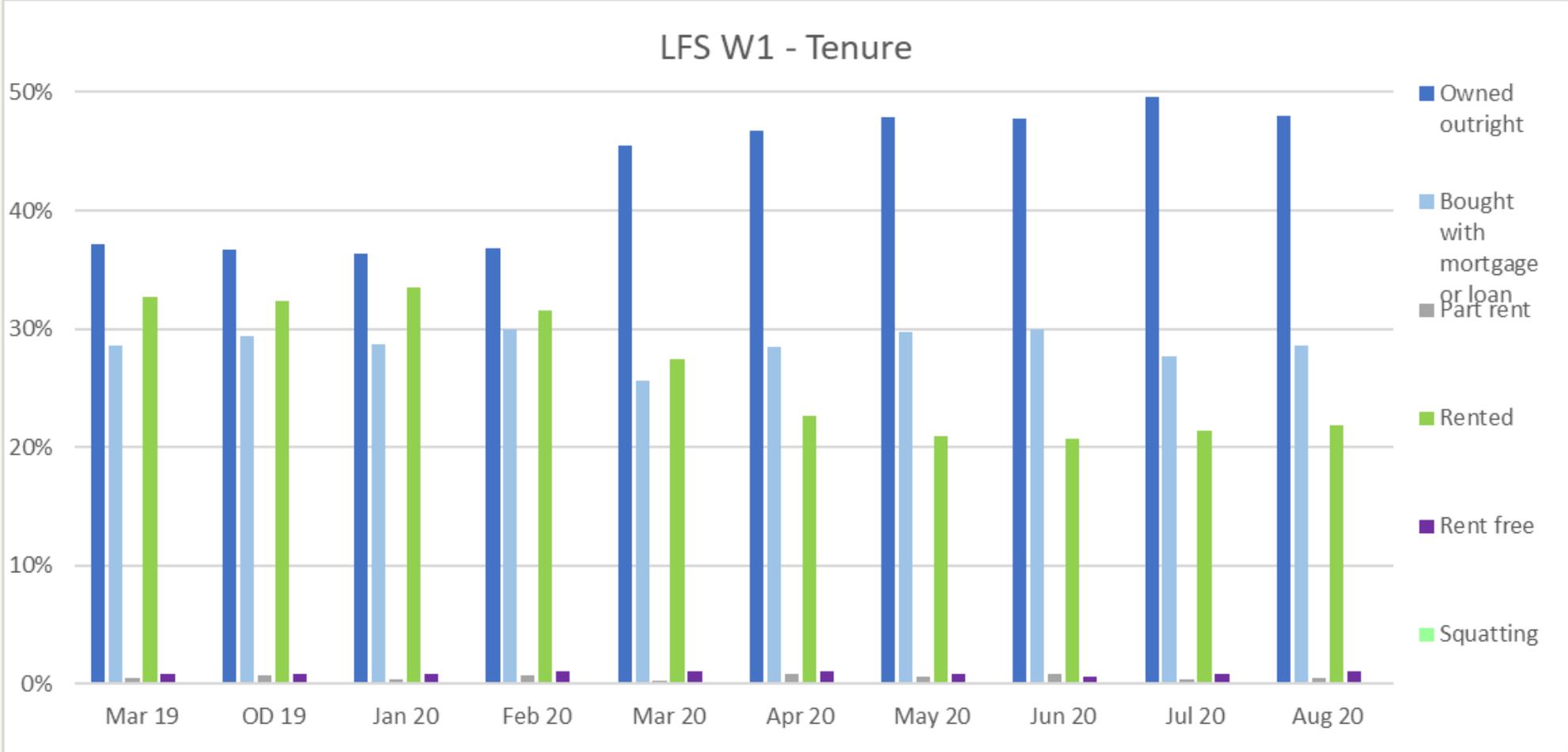
Impact of COVID-19 on LFS Response Rates



Impact of COVID-19 on LFS achieved sample size



Impact of COVID-19 on LFS estimates



Impact of COVID-19 on LFS estimates

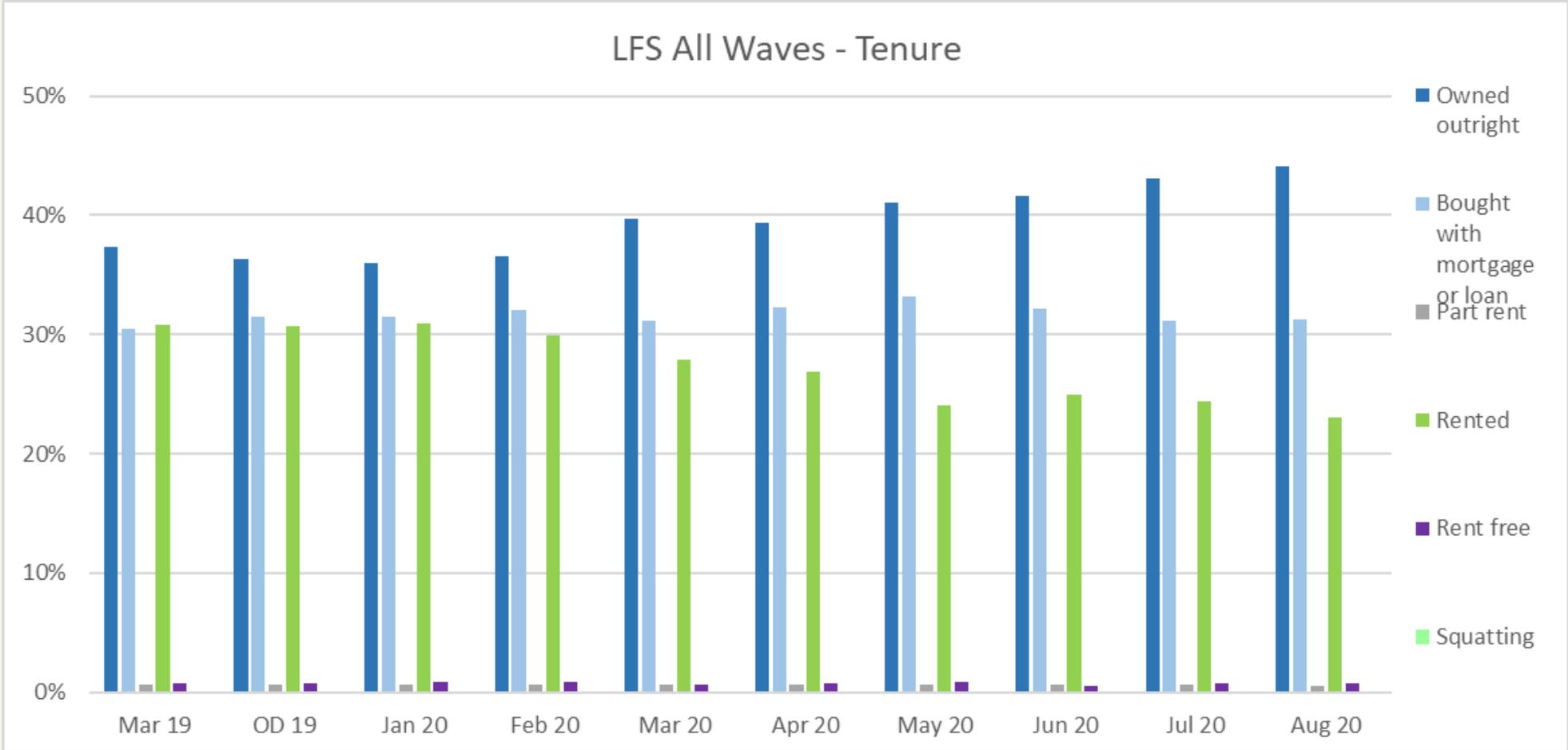
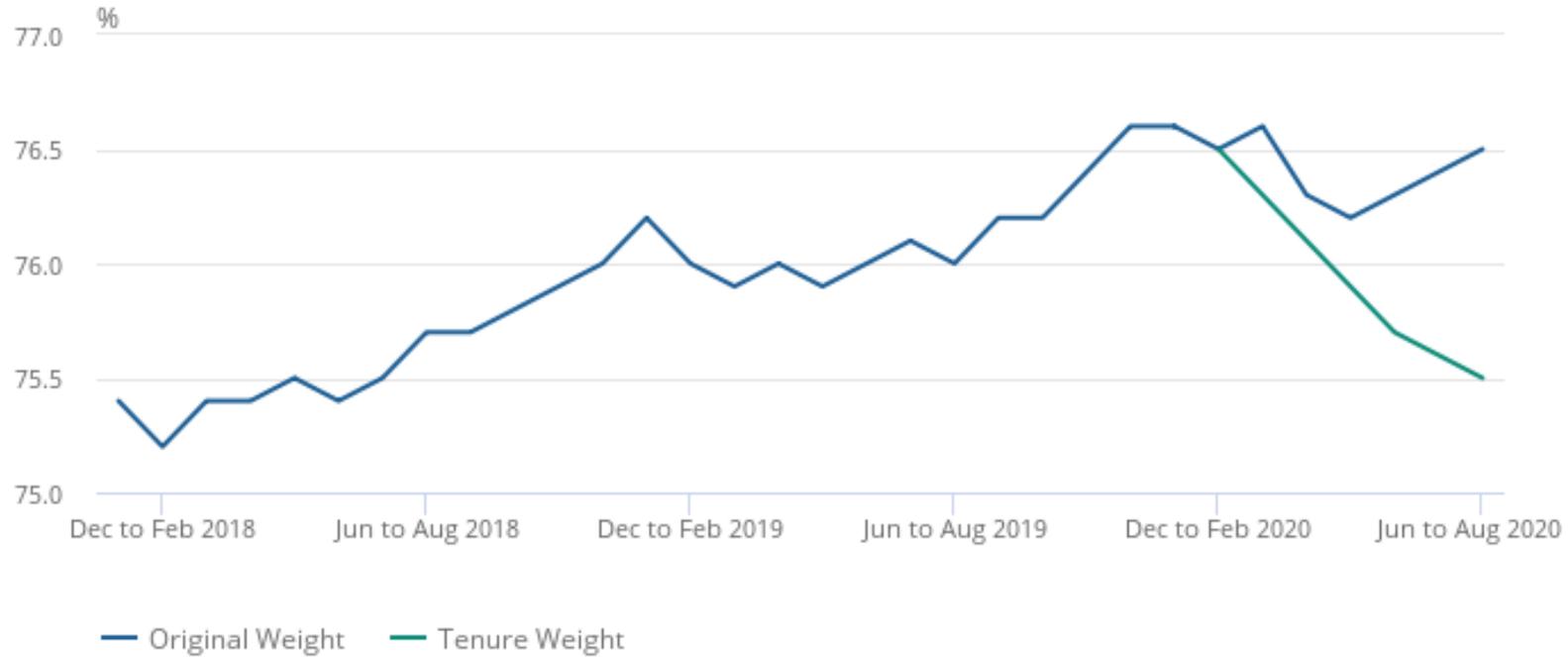


Figure 1: In June to August 2020, the adjusted employment rate was 1.0 percentage points lower than under usual weights

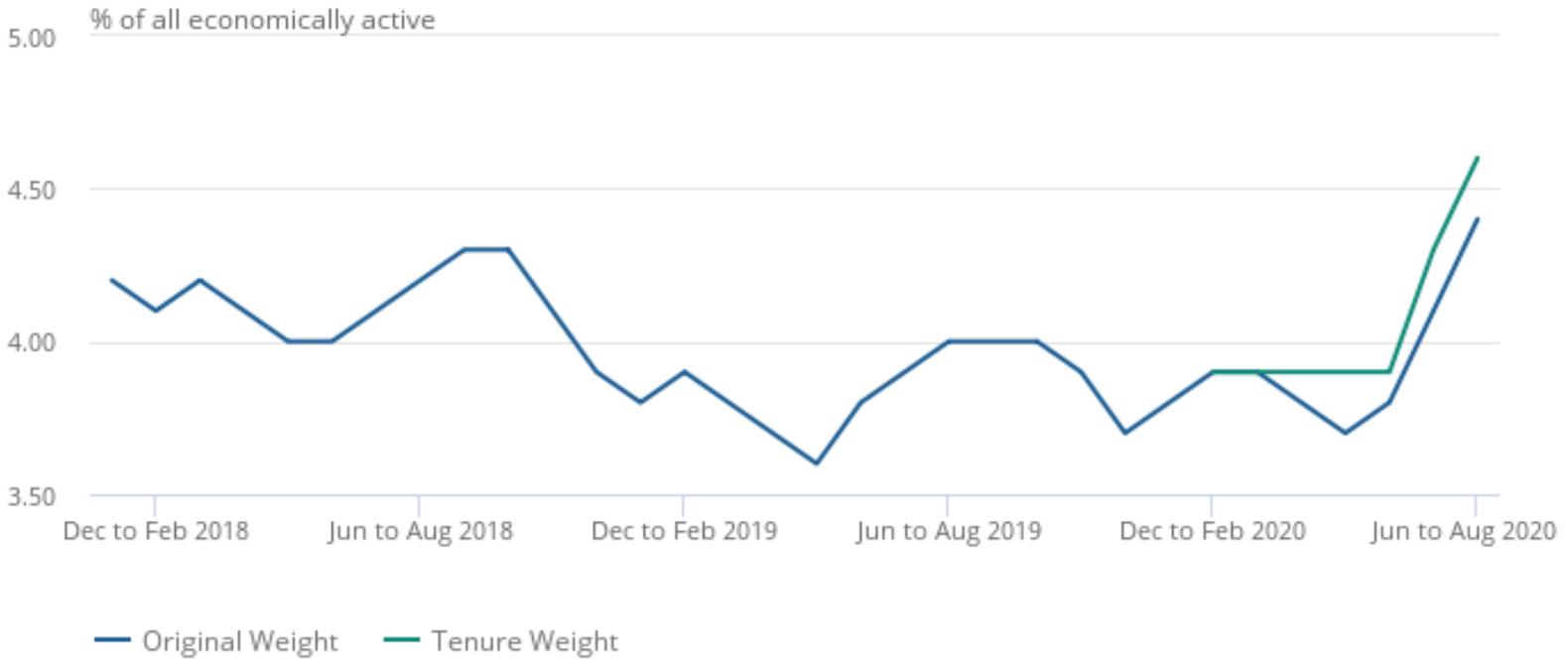
UK employment rates (aged 16 to 64 years), not seasonally adjusted, between November to January 2018 and June to August 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Figure 2: In June to August 2020, the adjusted unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage points higher than under usual weights

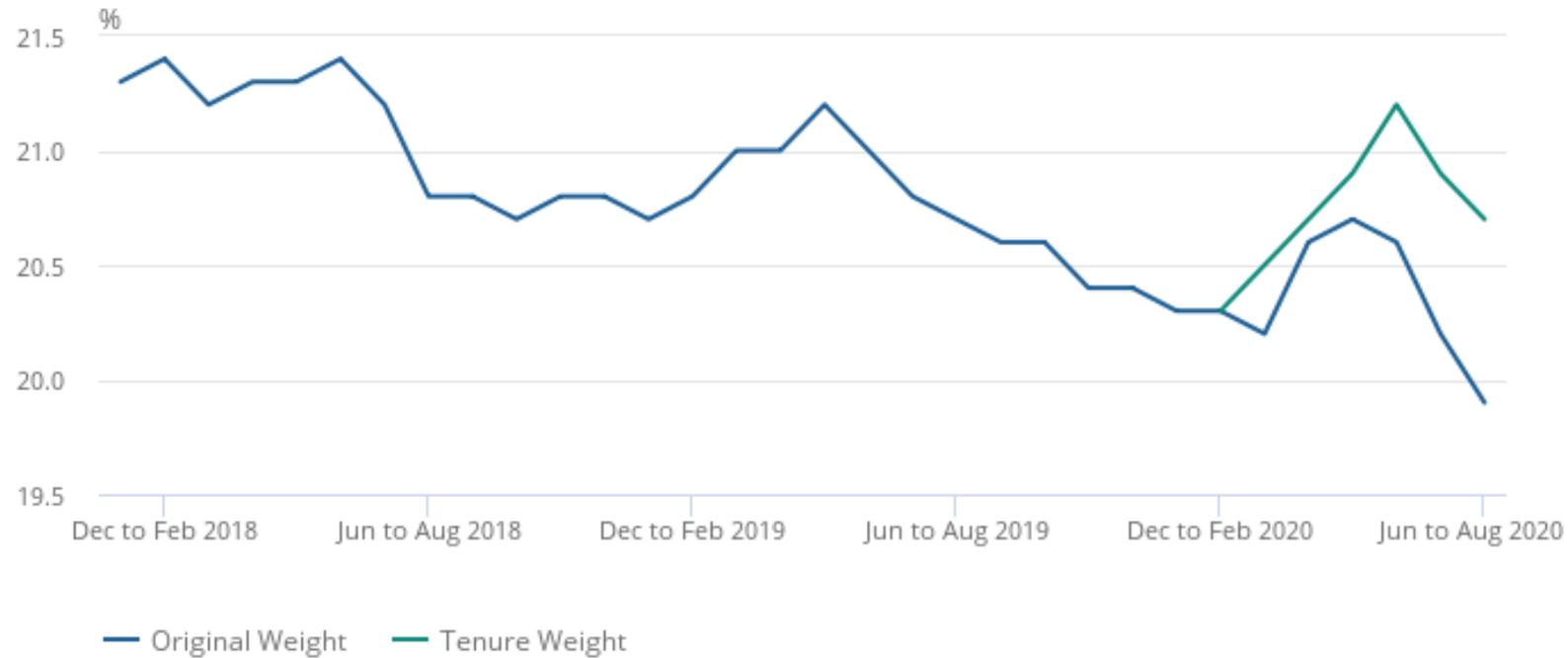
UK unemployment rates (aged 16 years and over), not seasonally adjusted, between November to January 2018 and June to August 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Figure 3: In June to August 2020, the adjusted economic inactivity rate was 0.8 percentage points higher than under usual weights

UK economic inactivity rate (all people aged 16 to 64 years), not seasonally adjusted, between November to January 2018 and June to August 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Survey changes since AJ20 as a response to COVID-19

- Collection of email address for each household (Main W1-4, Boost W1-3) to allow respondents to be contacted via email in case the postal system is disrupted.
- Telematching of entire W1 sample
- Telephone interviews for entire sample
- Online portal to collect telephone numbers of respondents
- Doubled W1 sample size for JS20 and OD20
- Adjusted weight calibration using tenure to address bias in the estimates

What is in the pipeline for 2021?

Questionnaire up-dates JM21

- Up-date to existing **COVID questions** and further questions added
- **Gender Identity** question added – NI only
- **Eurostat ad-hoc module** removed
- Implementation of **SOC2020**
- **NSSEC output categories** to change in line with SOC2020

Survey design going forward...

- We will continue to run with the tenure adjusted weights for the time being
- Population estimate reweighting project back to mid-2017 We doubled the JM21 W1 sample again to ensure the achieved sample size remains high enough
- Knock-to-Nudge trial considered to be rolled out on LFS in April subject to further findings

Thank you

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