

ABS

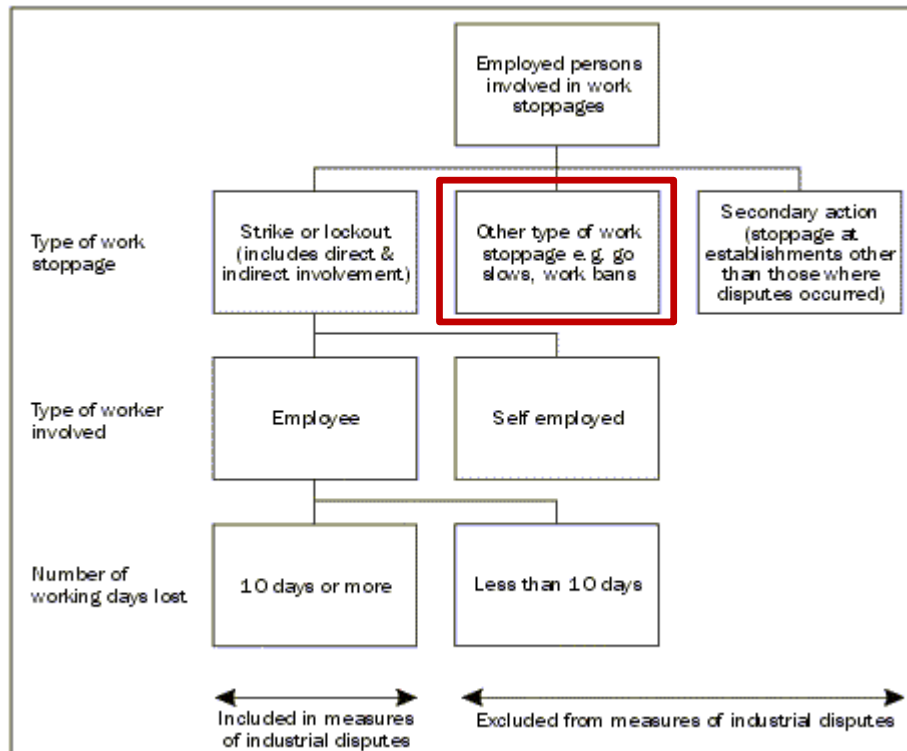
Industrial Disputes

General questions

- What policy questions are the ID statistics helping to answer?
- What are the critical data requirements of ID statistics?
- Does the current collection / publication need to change?

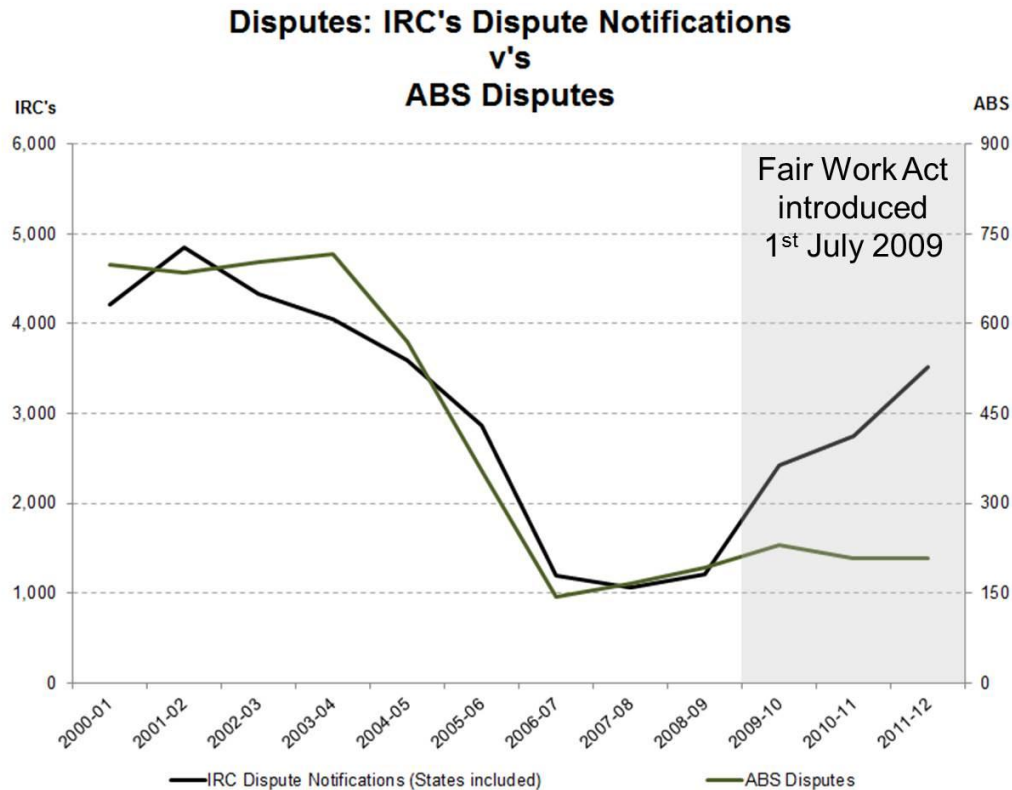
Scope and Coverage

- Changes in legislation may mean that the type of Industrial Action being taken has changed.



Scope and Coverage

- This means there may be an increase in the proportion of disputes that are out of scope of the collection?



Scope and Coverage

Two broad options:

- Make no change to the scope and change the name of the current publication to *Strikes and Lockouts* rather than *Industrial Disputes*.
- Change the scope of the collection to include other types of action such as work bans etc.

There are drawbacks to both options.

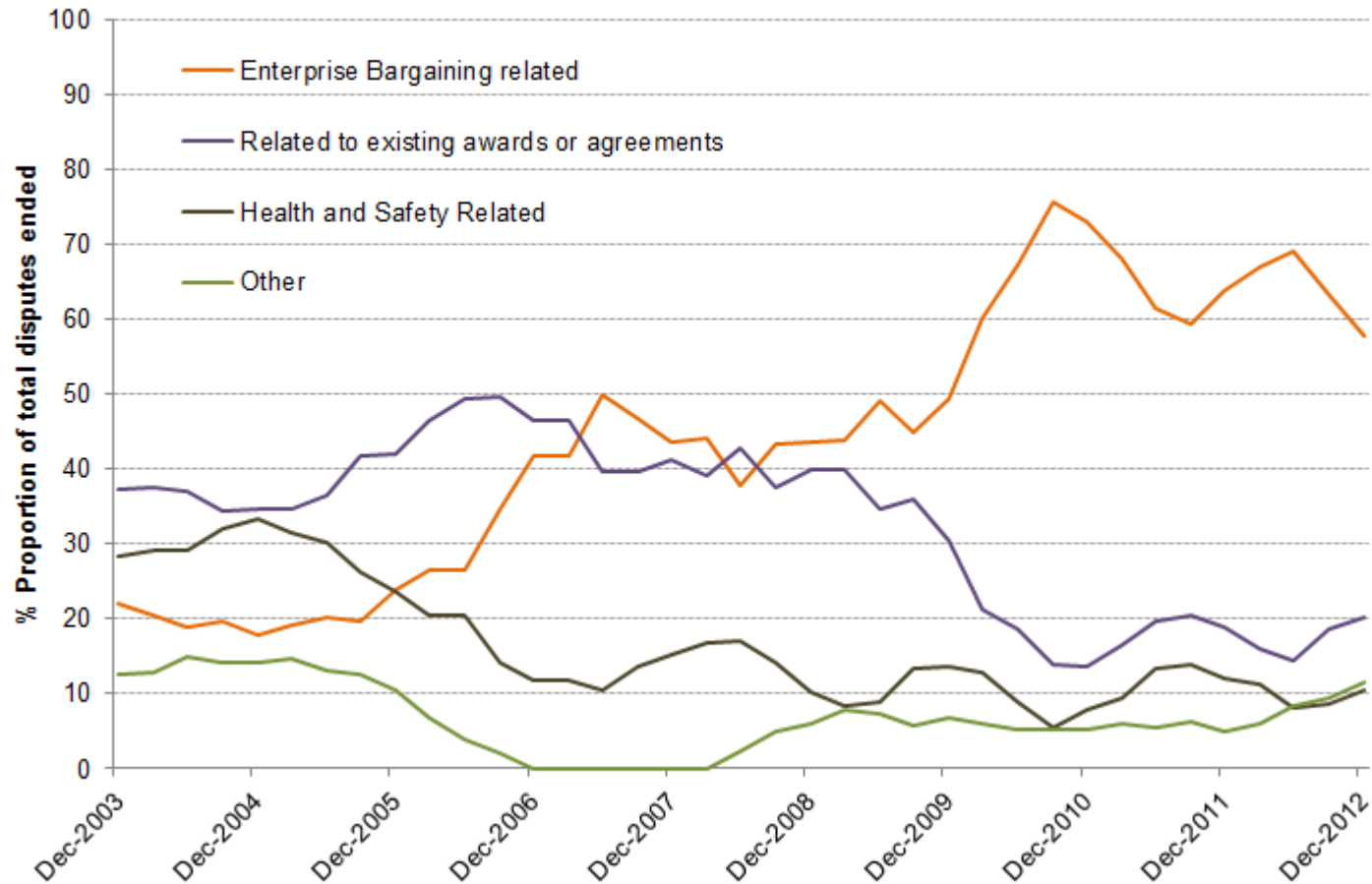
Existing Classifications

Cause of Dispute

- Collapse the Cause of Dispute classification from ten output categories to the following four categories:
 - collective bargaining related disputes (new agreements);
 - disputes related to existing awards or agreements (existing agreements);
 - health and safety related disputes; and
 - other disputes.
- Would the categories of the above classification meet user requirements?

Existing Classifications

Cause of Dispute (Disputes ended)



Existing Classifications

Disputes ended / Reason work resumed

- Drop the *'two month rule'* focus more on resolution
- The new classification / data item:
 - Unresolved dispute
 - First / single stoppage for dispute
 - Multiple stoppages over course of dispute
 - Partially Resolved / Resolved dispute (Single / Multiple stoppages), method of resolution
 - without intervention;
 - with intervention; and
 - Other method of resolution (is there a need for an 'other' category?)

Data Gaps and Confidentiality

To provide users with a greater range of indicators the ABS is exploring whether the following variables could be added to outputs:

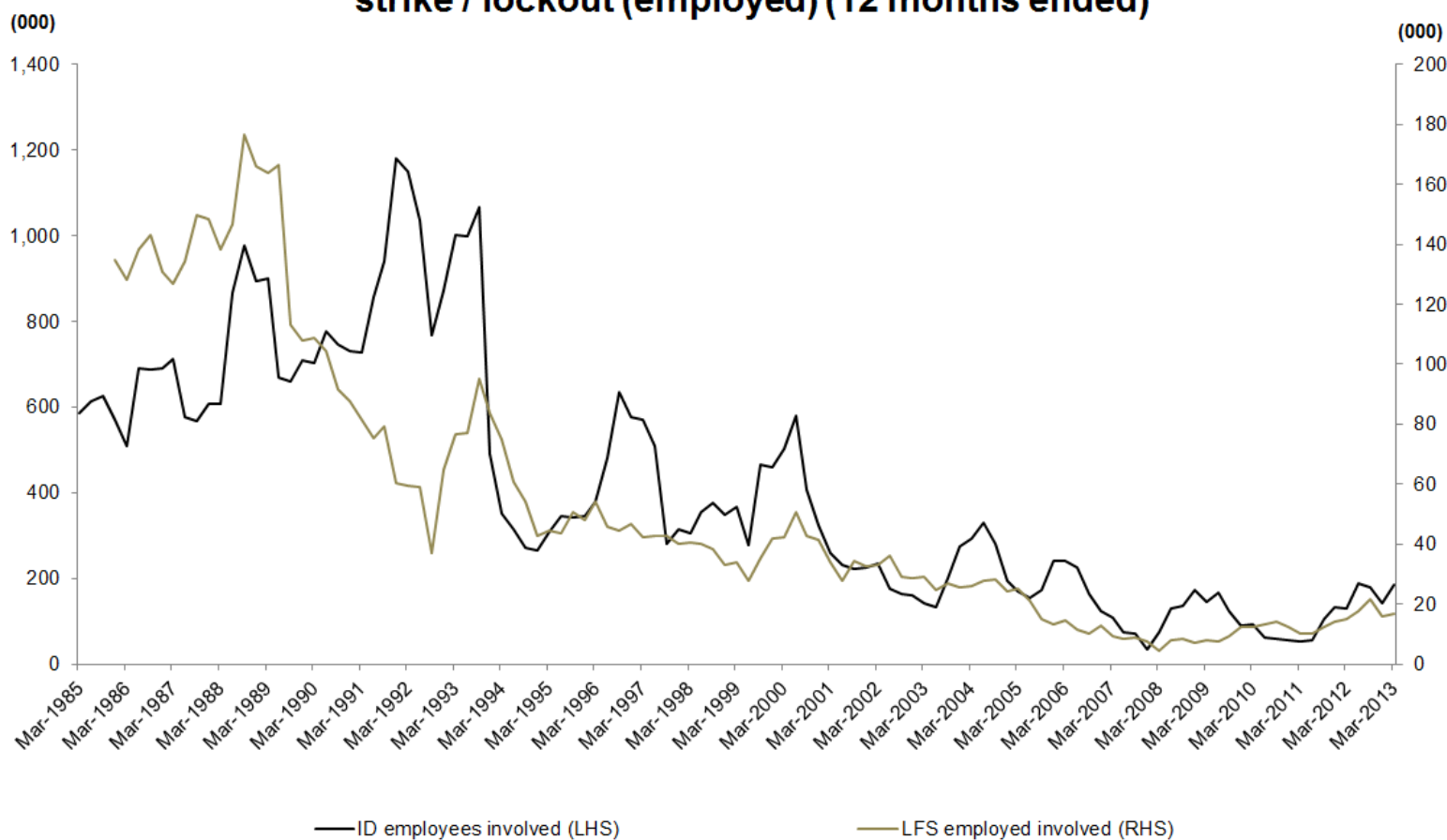
- Large Disputes - working days lost or employees involved;
- Wide spread disputes - multiple stoppage locations;
- Size of business - provide estimates by the size of business;
- Industrial Relations (IR) Jurisdiction;
- Public / Private Sector;
- Additional state dissections; and
- Report strikes and lockouts separately.

Data Gaps and Confidentiality

- Would a move from the current quarterly data release to an annual data release be supported if more detailed data were available annually?
- Is there a requirement for a sub-annual series? If so, what information is required?
- Would the concept of hours lost or persons who worked fewer hours be a suitable alternative quarterly source?

Data Gaps and Confidentiality

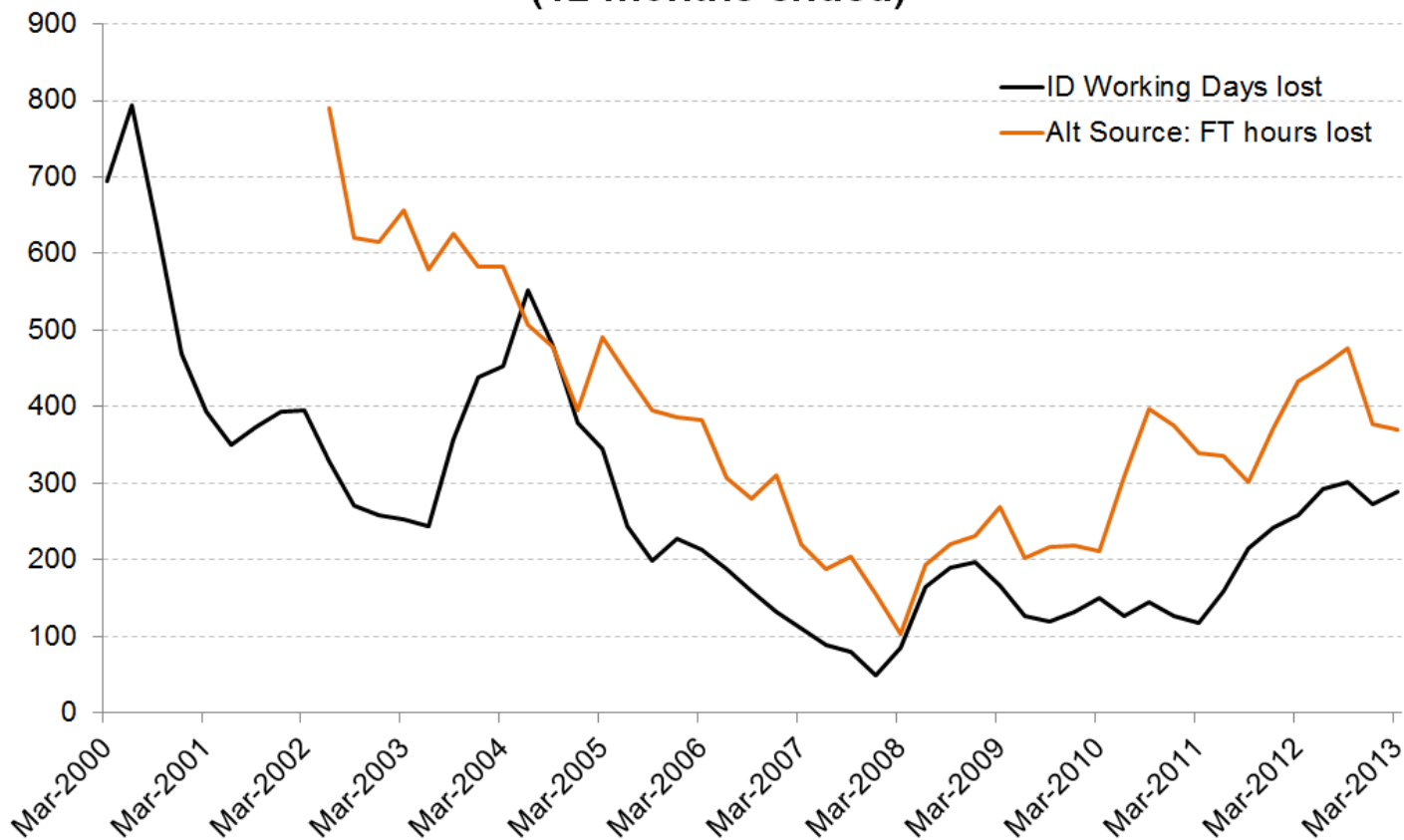
ID disputes (employees) v LFS reason worked less than 35 hours - strike / lockout (employed) (12 months ended)



Data Gaps and Confidentiality

Days per quarter /
Hours per week
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**Alternative Data Source Comparison:
ID collection working days lost v's FT hours lost
(12 months ended)**



Long term options

- Move towards administrative sources replacing the current survey approach.
 - Should statistics on termination related disputes (i.e. unfair dismissal and general protection claims) be included in the scope of the statistics?
 - Replacing the existing collection with data sourced from administrative records. Are there any concerns with the ABS pursuing this approach?