

The Australian Labour Account:

Methods, benefits and learnings



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Informing Australia's important decisions





Australian Labour Market

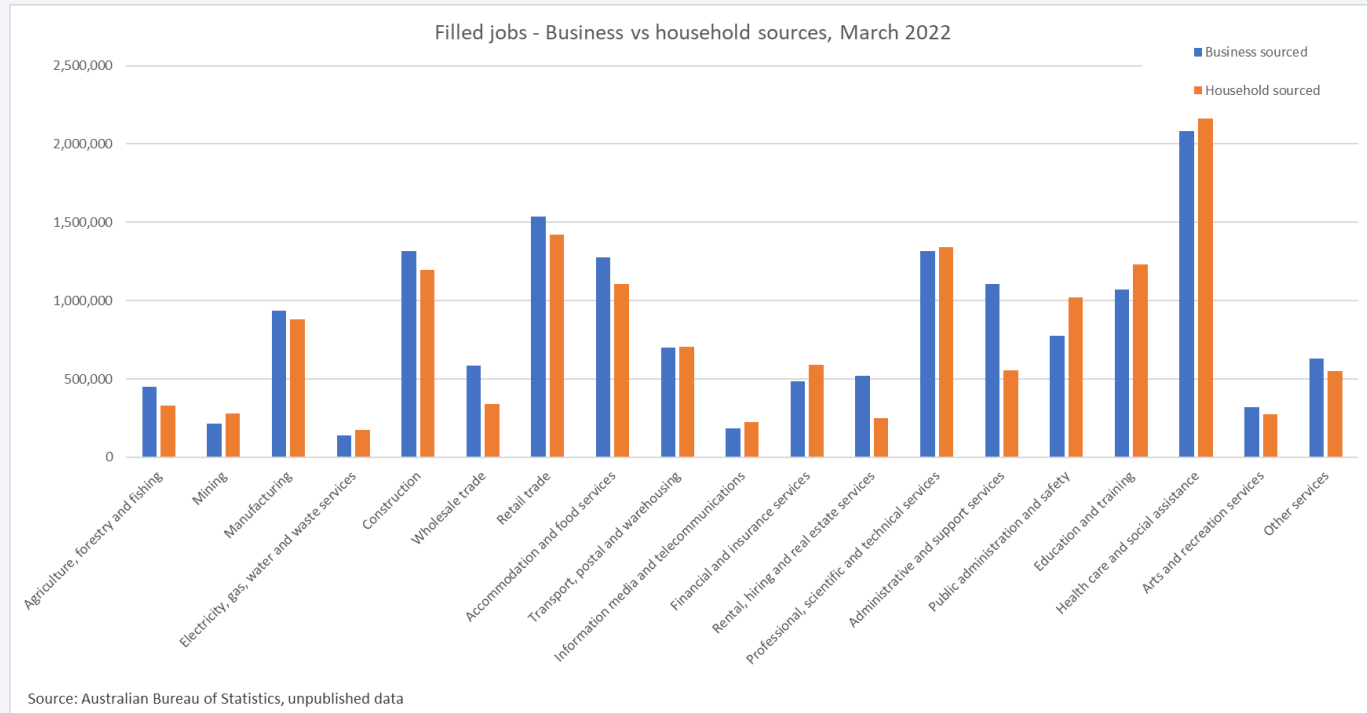
Household
Survey

Business
Survey

Admin
data

Labour
Accounts

Why create a labour account?





Why create a Labour Account?

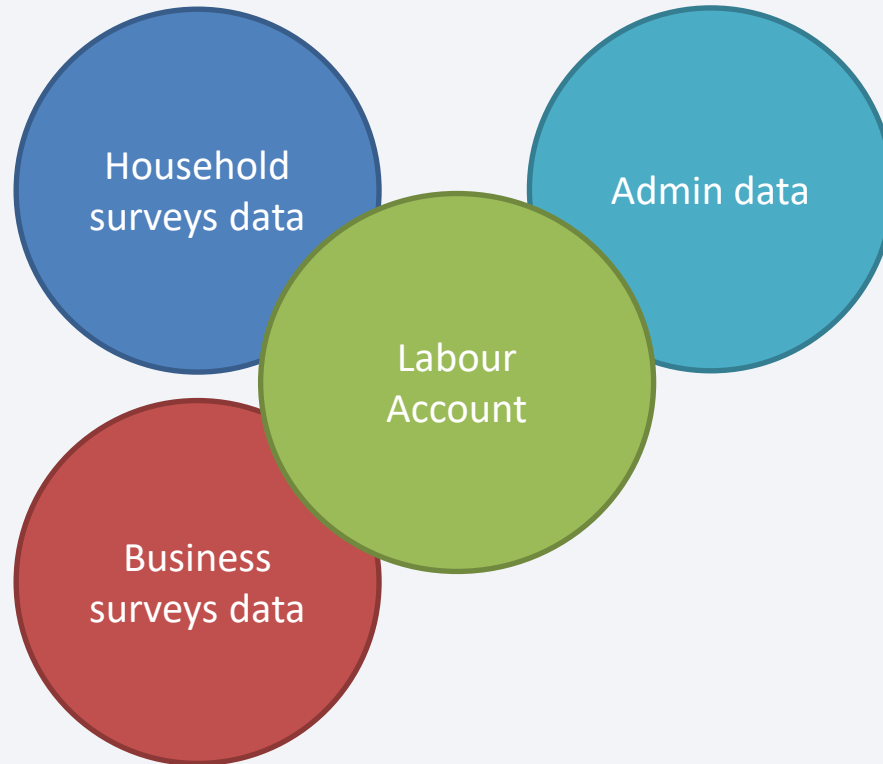
Household
surveys data

Admin data

Business
surveys data



Why create a Labour Account?



The Australian Labour Account



People



Jobs



Hours



Payments

The Australian Labour Account



People

- Employed
- Unemployed
- Underemployed



Jobs

- Filled jobs
- Vacant jobs
- Main and secondary jobs



Hours

- Hours worked
- Hours paid



Payments

- Labour income
- Labour costs to businesses

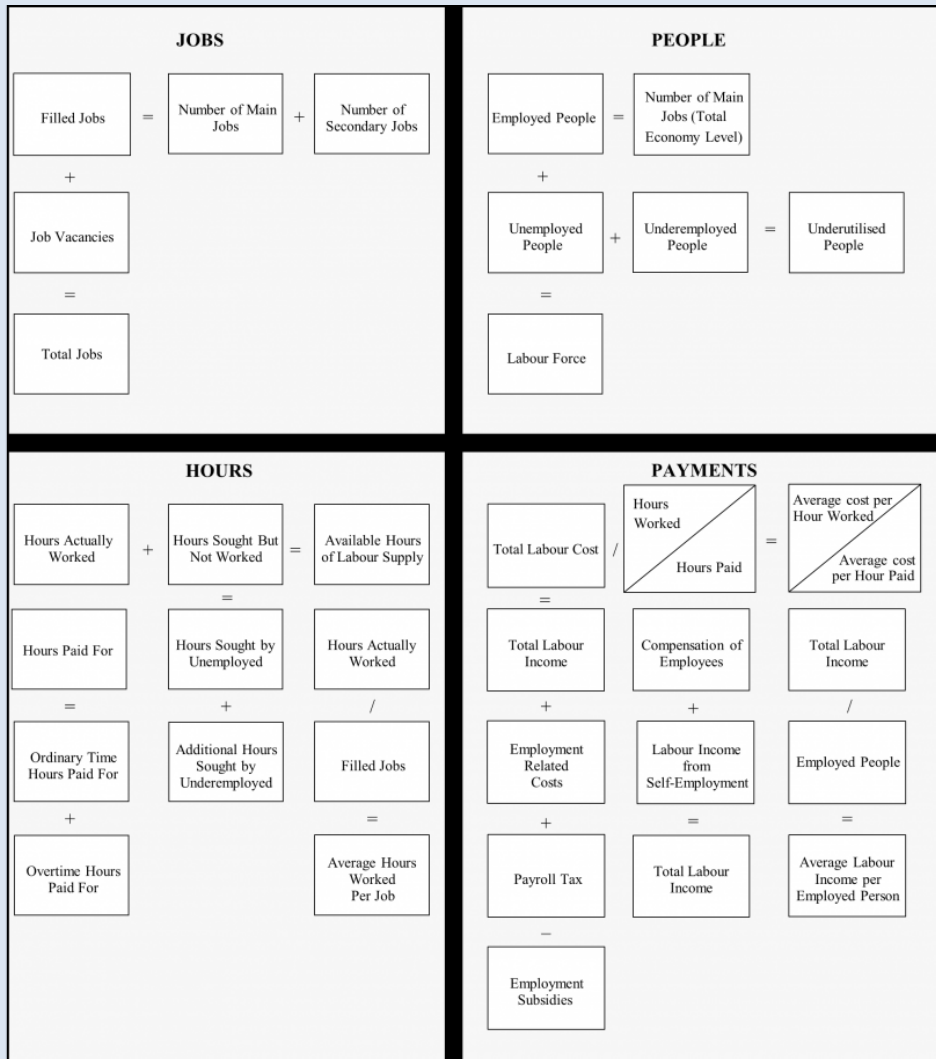
Compiling the Australian Labour Account

- ▶ Define the identify equations
 - How do the outputs relate to each other?

Example:

$$\text{Hours worked} + \text{Hours sought but not worked} = \text{Available hours of labour supply}$$

Identity relationships within the Australian Labour Account



Compiling the Australian Labour Account

1. Harmonization

Data sources

Modelling

2. Balancing

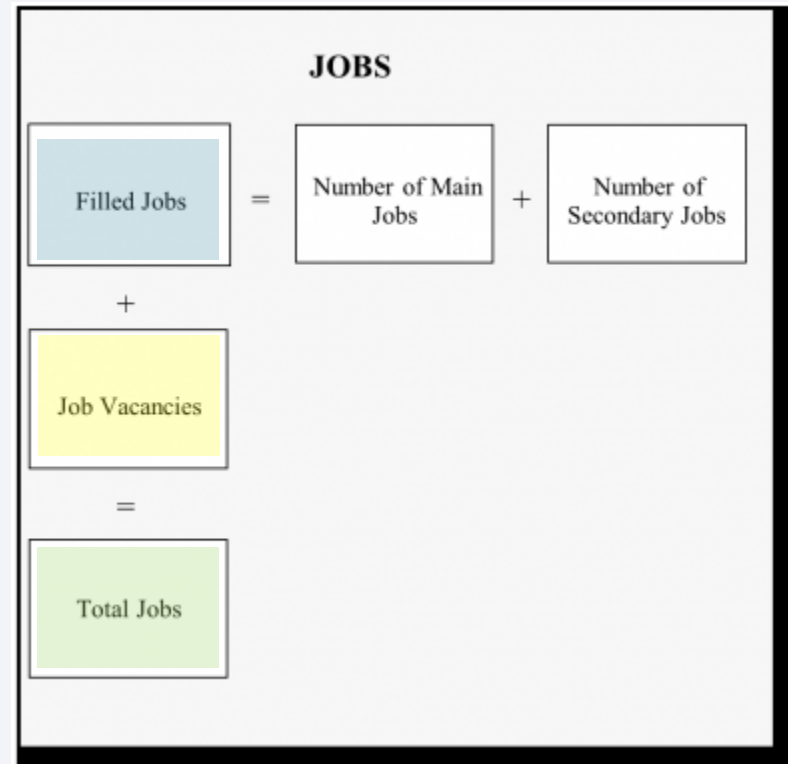
Exploiting
statistical
strengths

Benefits of the Labour Account

- Provides a framework through which existing data can be confronted and integrated
- Helps users make sense of seemingly inconsistent labour-related data
- Provide new insights through the combination of various data sources and modelling
- Provide a set of consistent labour-related statistics, conceptually aligned with the National Accounts

Example use case of the Labour Account

- ▶ Of all jobs in Australia, what proportion are vacant?
 - Requires count of total job vacancies
 - Requires count of total jobs



Example use case of the Labour Account

ABS Labour Force Survey +
various ABS business surveys

- ▶ **Total jobs** = Filled jobs + Vacant jobs
- ▶ **Proportion of vacant jobs** = Vacant jobs / Total jobs

ABS Job Vacancy Survey

Example use case of the Labour Account

▶ Harmonise scope:

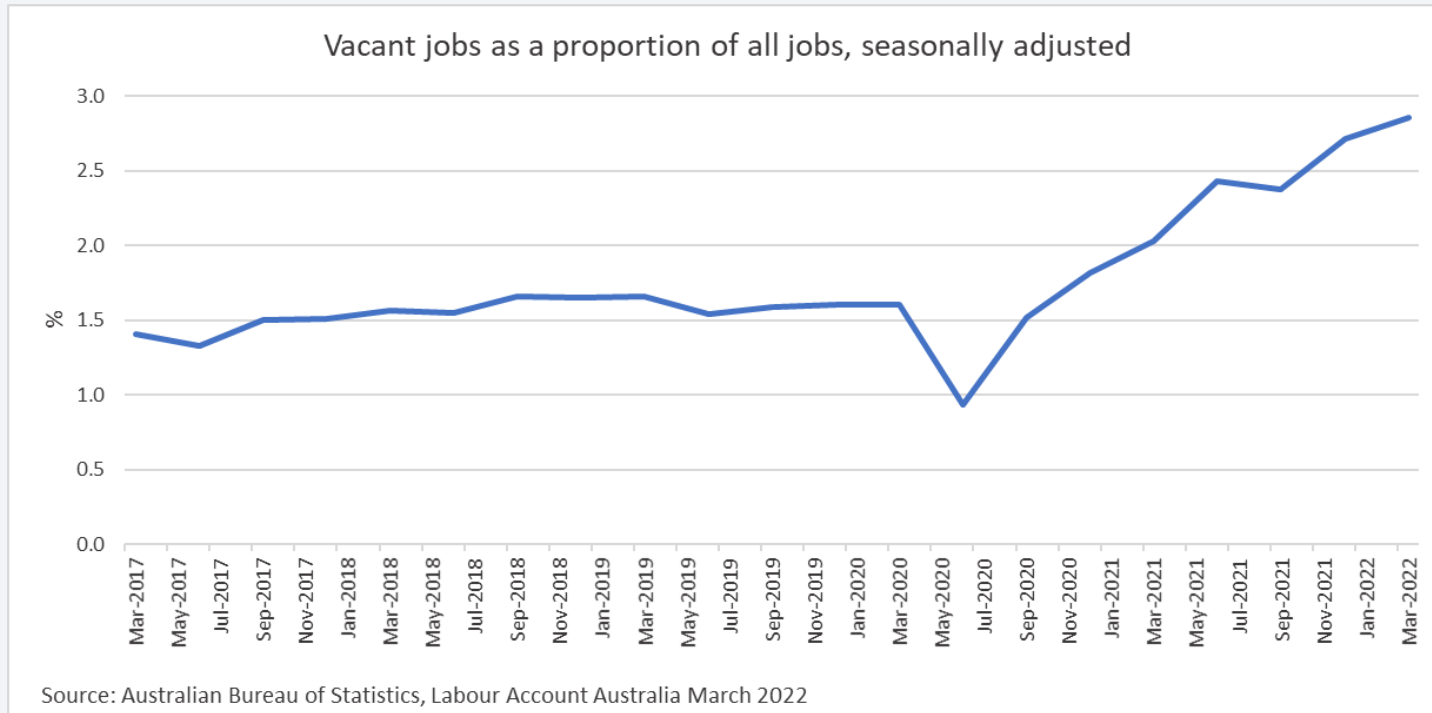
Filled jobs

- Add missing populations, eg jobs held by short-term non-residents; workers under 15 years of age; Defence Force personnel
- Use business survey employment data to improve industry breakdown

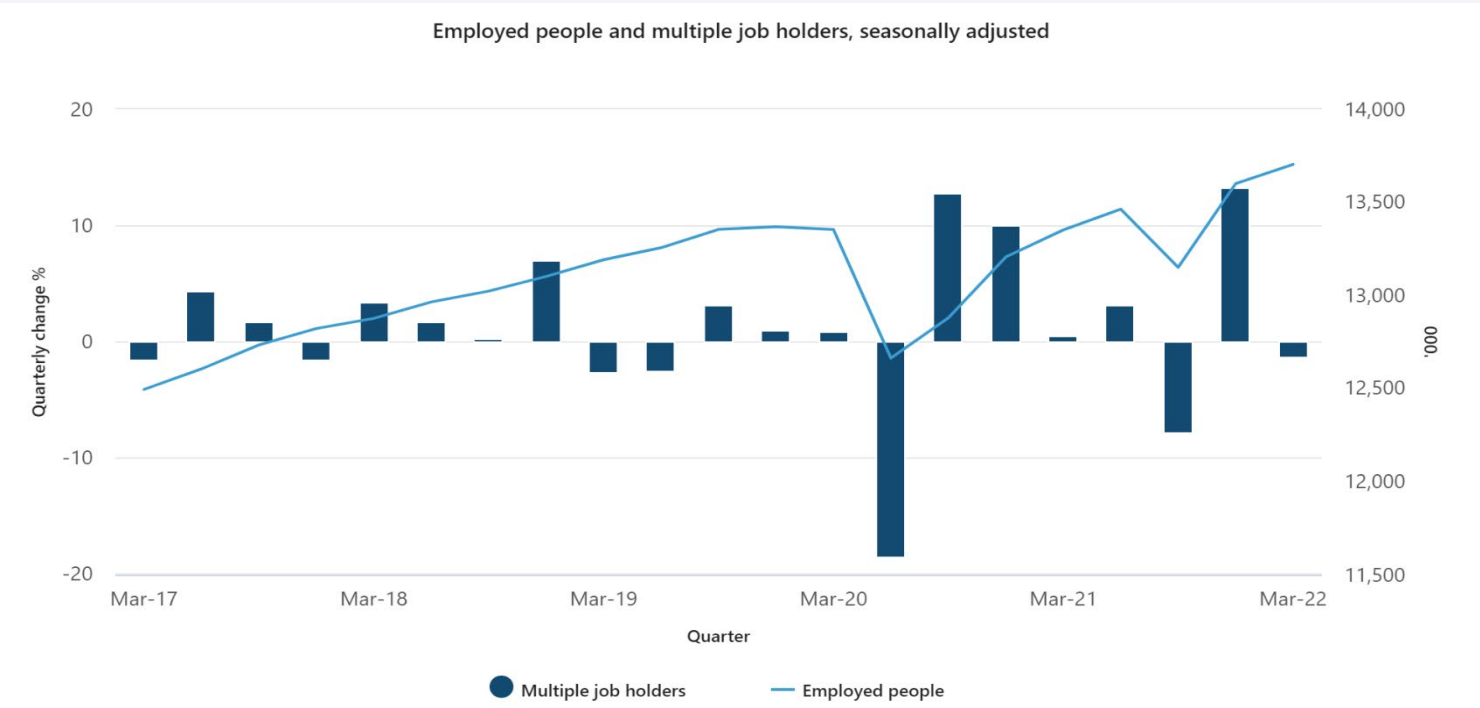
Vacant jobs

- Estimate vacancies for the excluded industry (Agriculture, forestry and fishing) using job advertisements data.

Vacant jobs as a percentage of all jobs

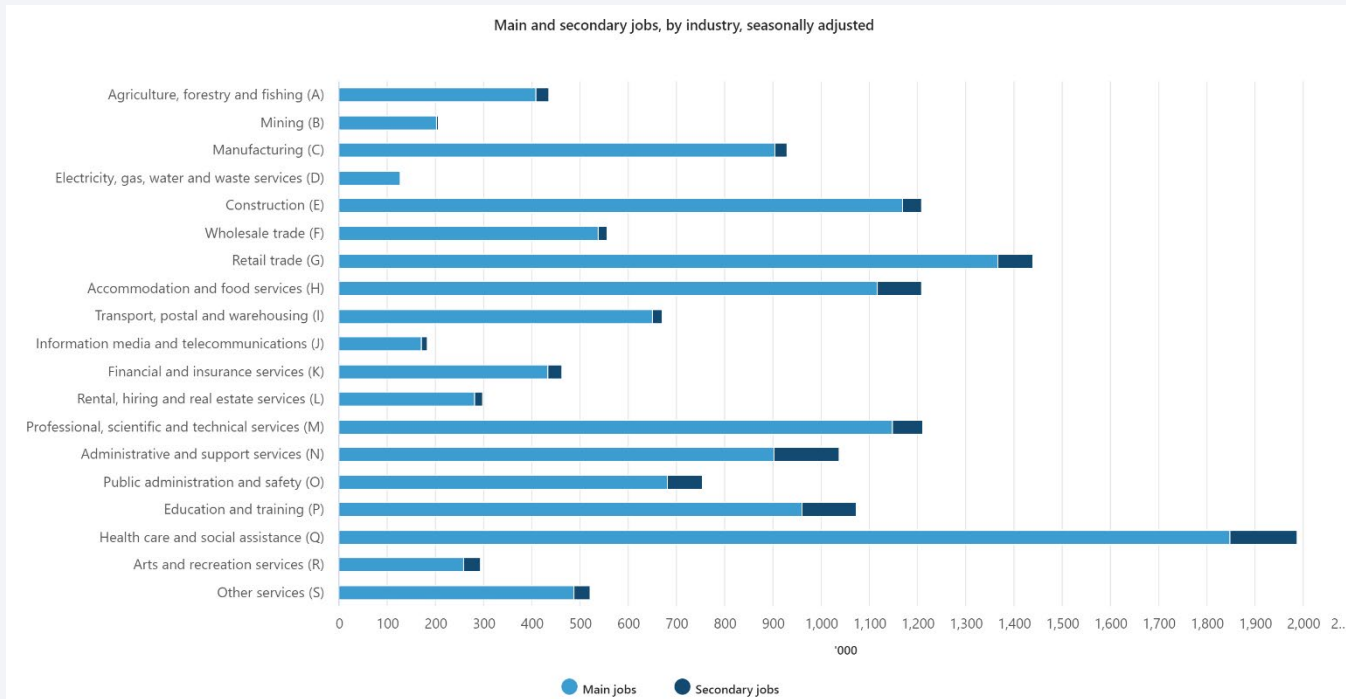


Multiple job holding by industry



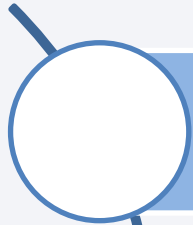
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Account Australia March 2022

Main and secondary jobs



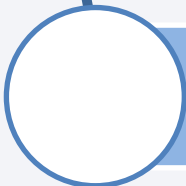
Secondary jobs can be held by people who have their main job in the same or a different industry.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Account Australia March 2022



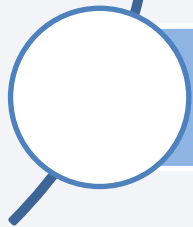
Substantial time and resources needed to devise frameworks and methods

- No “one size fits all” international approach
- Dependent on available data sources and purpose



Multi-source design is reliant on wide range of input data

- Risks and challenges associated with this



Difficulties in modelling data during unusual conditions (COVID-19)

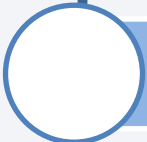
Lessons Learned



Demand for timely and more granular data



Finding the right balance: Detailed outputs vs robustness



Need to explain role and demonstrate relative value - given the existing range of statistics



Benefits in revisiting and reviewing models and methods