

Promoting sustainable industry in Denmark: Issues and challenges

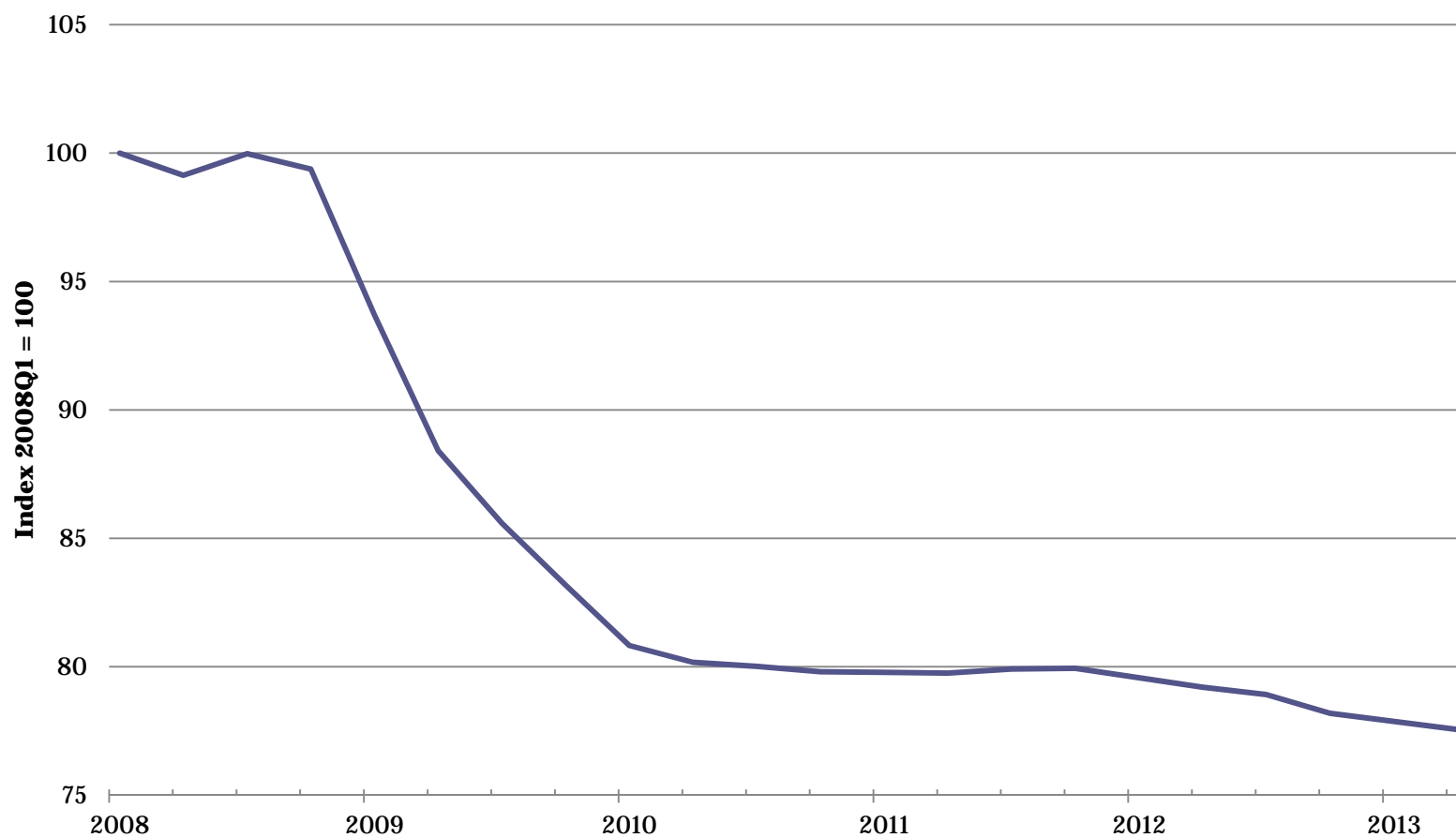
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What is sustainability in broad terms?

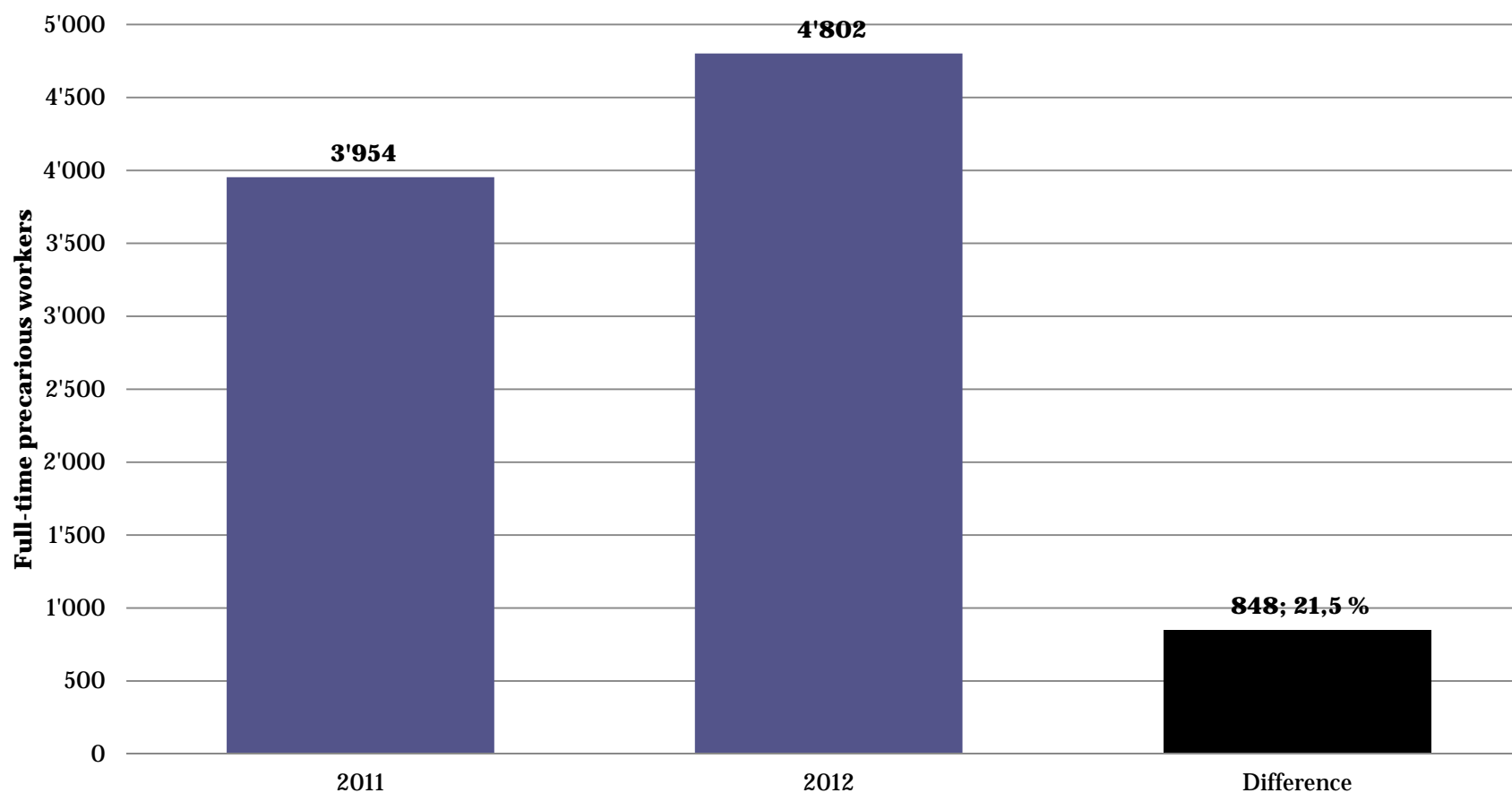
- Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs
- A sustainable industrial policy must create a healthy economy and quality employment while minimizing negative environmental impact and advancing the interests of society as a whole

Source: IndustriALL Global Union, *Towards Sustainable Industrial Policy*

Three major challenges in a Danish context: Massive layoffs in manufacturing



A significant rise in precarious work: Use of temporary workers is rising



Climate change is no longer on top of the agenda - still, it is a real and serious threat



Promoting sustainable industrial policy: The free market cannot create sustainable development

Hence, key words in a Danish context are (amongst others):

- Ensure education for all
- Promote collective bargaining
- Promote active labour market policies
- Promote R&D and innovation
- Ensure companies are liable for the true costs of their business, not society

Government initiatives in Denmark

Industrial strategy is being developed – expected in the beginning of 2014

- Government sees manufacturing as a key engine of growth
- Joint work across ministries – important since sustainability involves a broad set of policy targets
- Rebalancing targets: employment, education, R&D, carbon emission etc.

A lot has already been done this year ...



Vækstplan DK

Stærke virksomheder,
flere job



Februar 2013

Regeringen

Faglært til fremtiden

– Bedre og mere
attraktive erhvervs-
uddannelser



Oktober 2013

Regeringen

Trade union initiatives in Denmark

- Part of the industrial strategy policy formulation. Succeeded in promoting a recognition that manufacturing is a key engine of growth
- Tri-partite negotiations on lifelong learning in spring 2014
- Tri-partite negotiations on active labour market policies coming up soon – addressing the issue of re-employment of redundant workers
- Collective bargaining agreements to ensure that productivity improvements benefit those that contribute to them, thus raising wages and in turn contributing to industrial and social stability and reducing inequality

Conclusions: Promoting sustainable industry

- Beating the recession is the most urgent task in front of us
- Challenges are to a large extent global. The same applies to solutions. There is a strong need for unions to put pressure on the authorities to better the safety, health and working conditions in the industrial sector. Global regulation is necessary to achieve a more fair and level playing field
- Unions should push for international agreements on decreasing green house gas emissions
- Unions should promote the importance of lifelong learning AND not least
- Organize workers to be able to reach these goals