

Growth of Interest Groups over Time

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POLI 065

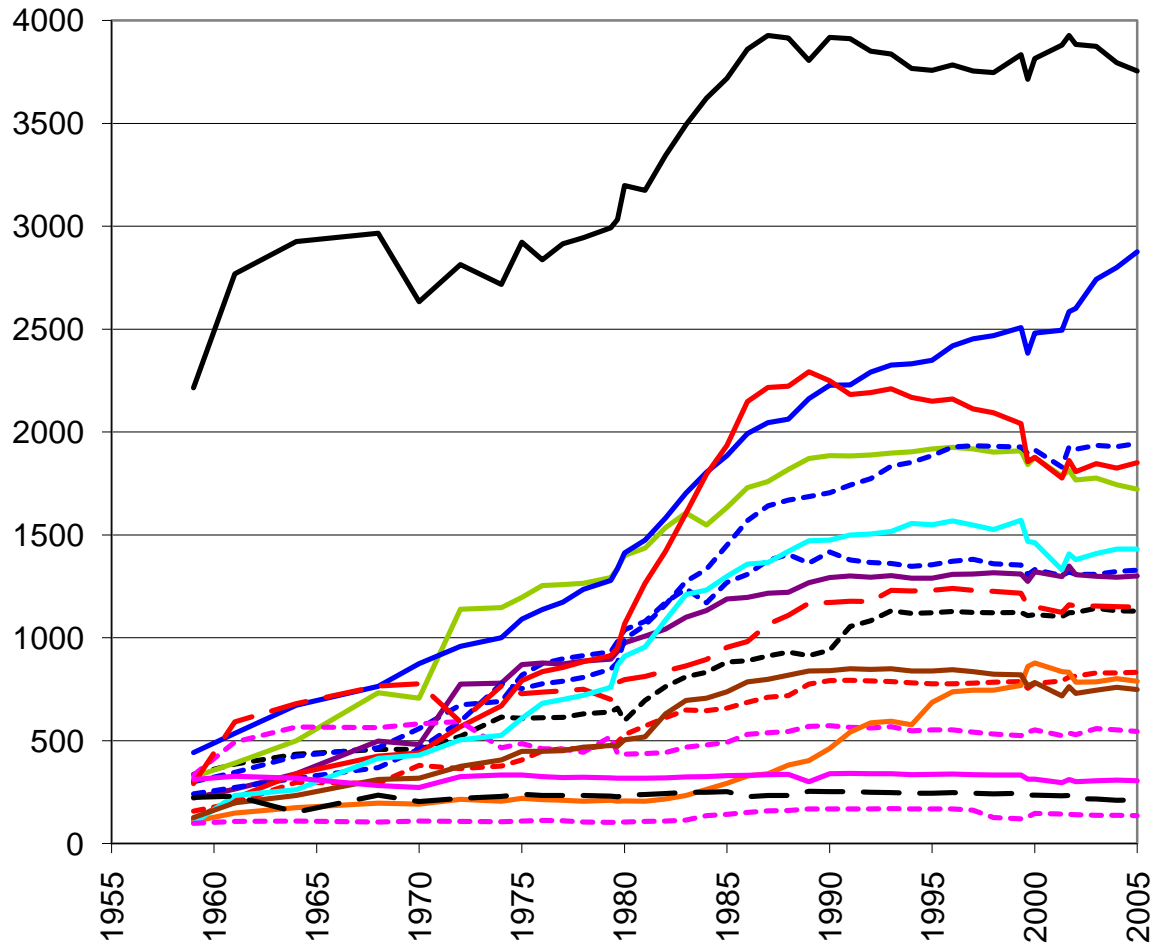
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From the Encyclopedia of Associations

Comprehensive directory of national-level associations, published annually

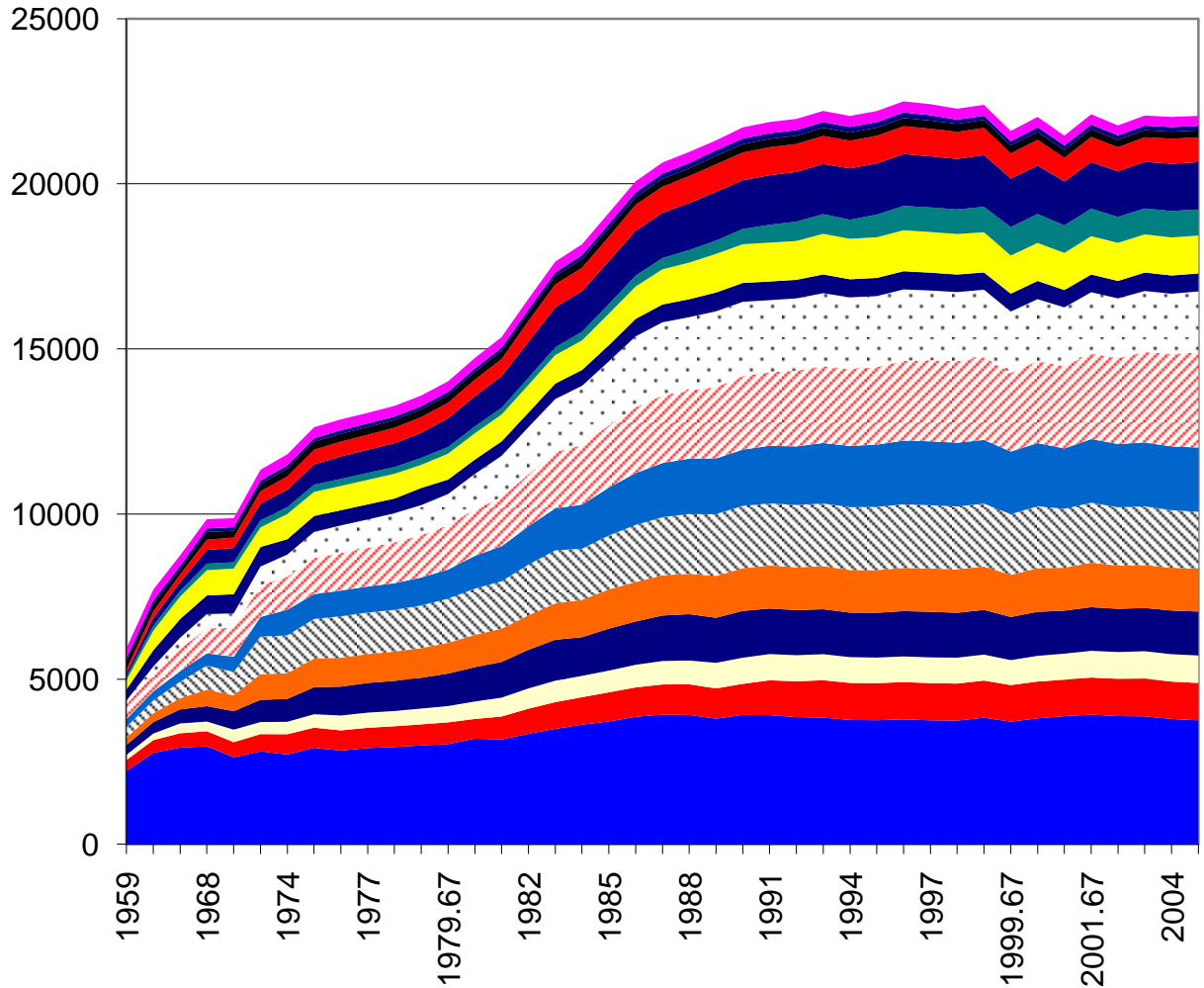
Different types of groups have formed at different times, as in the following charts

Growth by Sector, 1959-2005



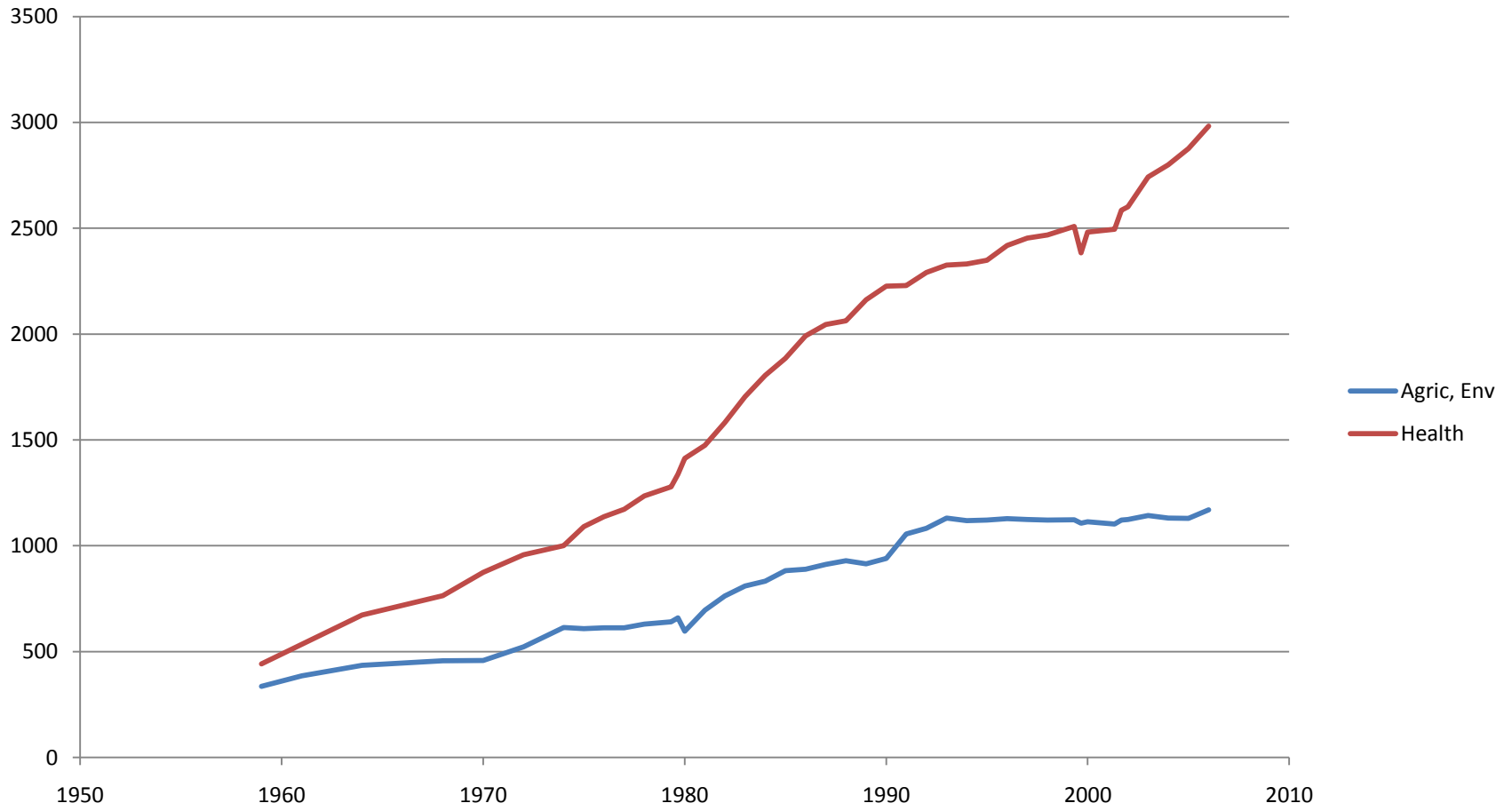
- Trade
- Agric, Env
- Govt
- Sci, Tech, Engin
- Educ
- Culture
- Soc Wel
- Health
- Pub Aff
- Fraternal
- Religious
- Veterans
- Hobby
- Sports
- Labor
- Ch Commerce
- Greek

Growth by Sector, 1959-2005

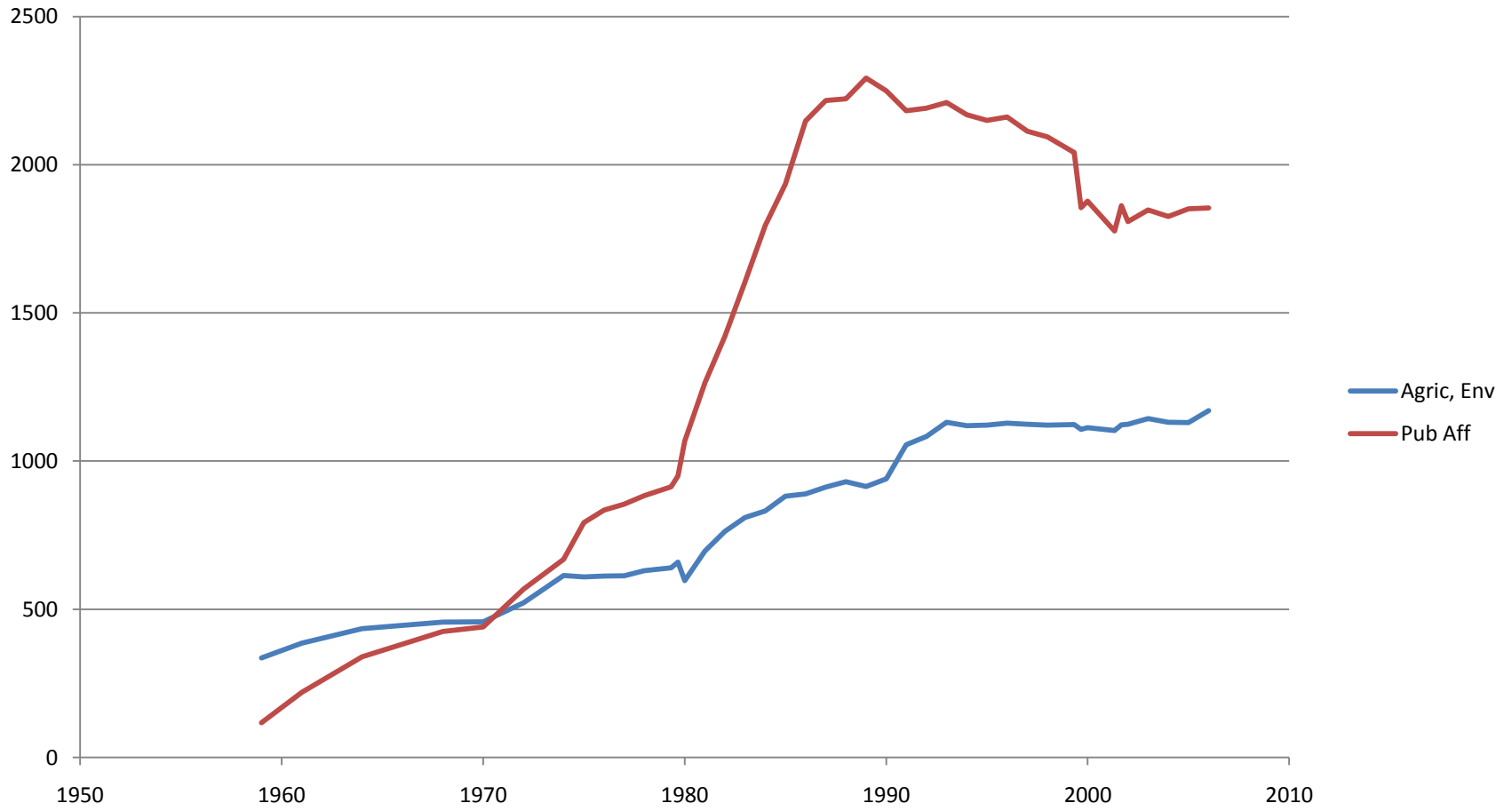


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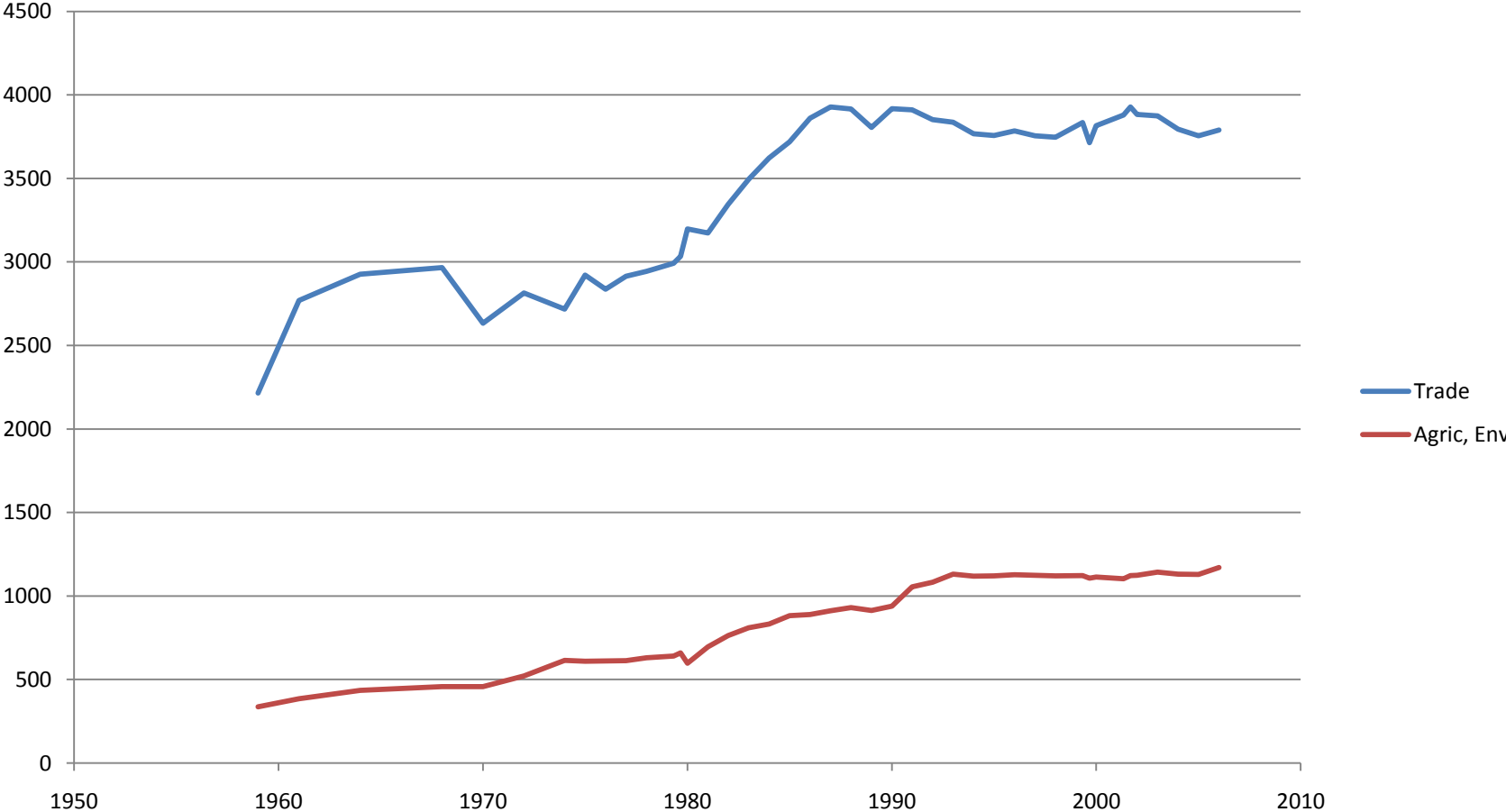
Health groups have grown real fast



Public affairs groups have grown faster

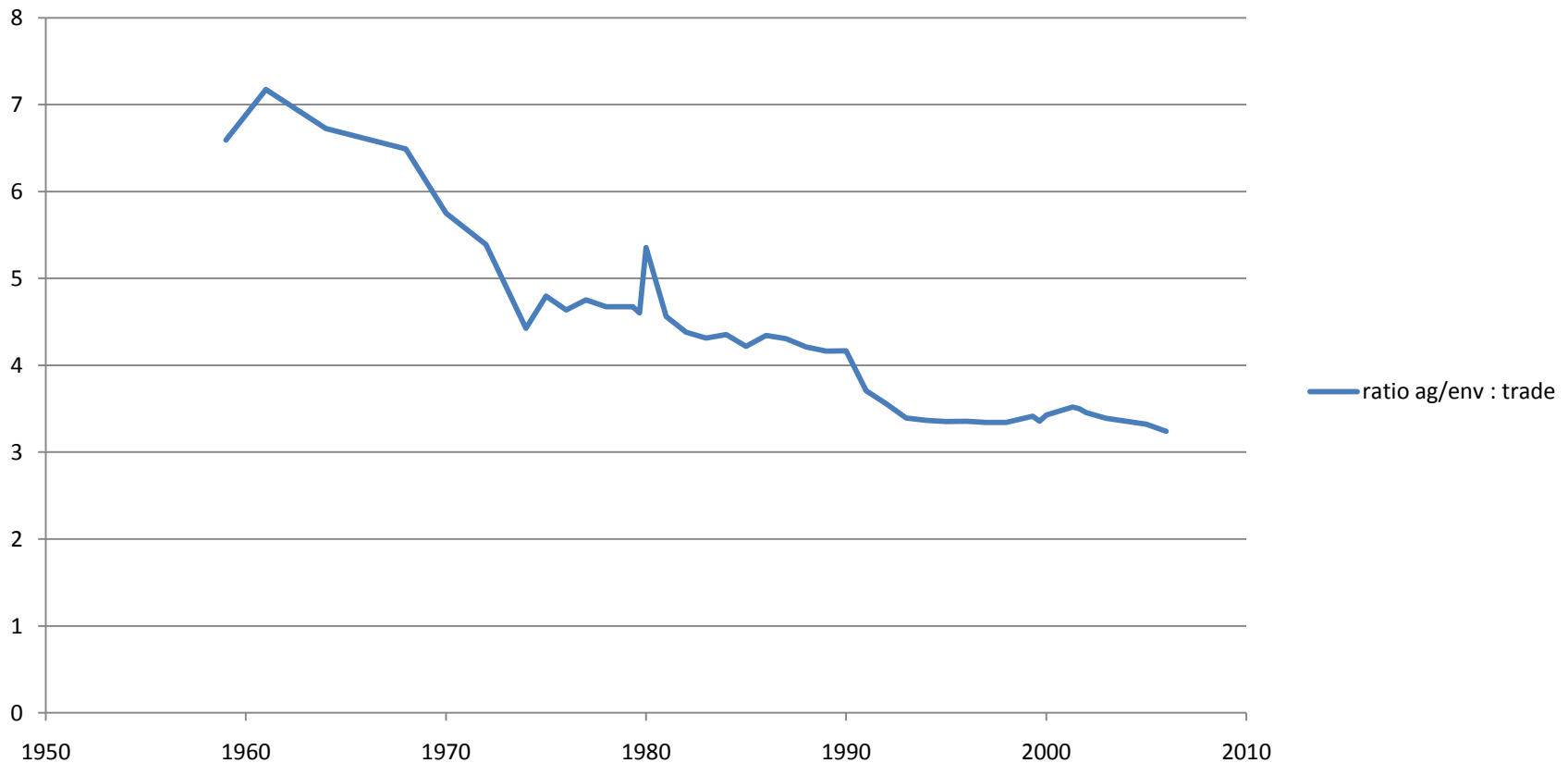


There are lots of trade associations



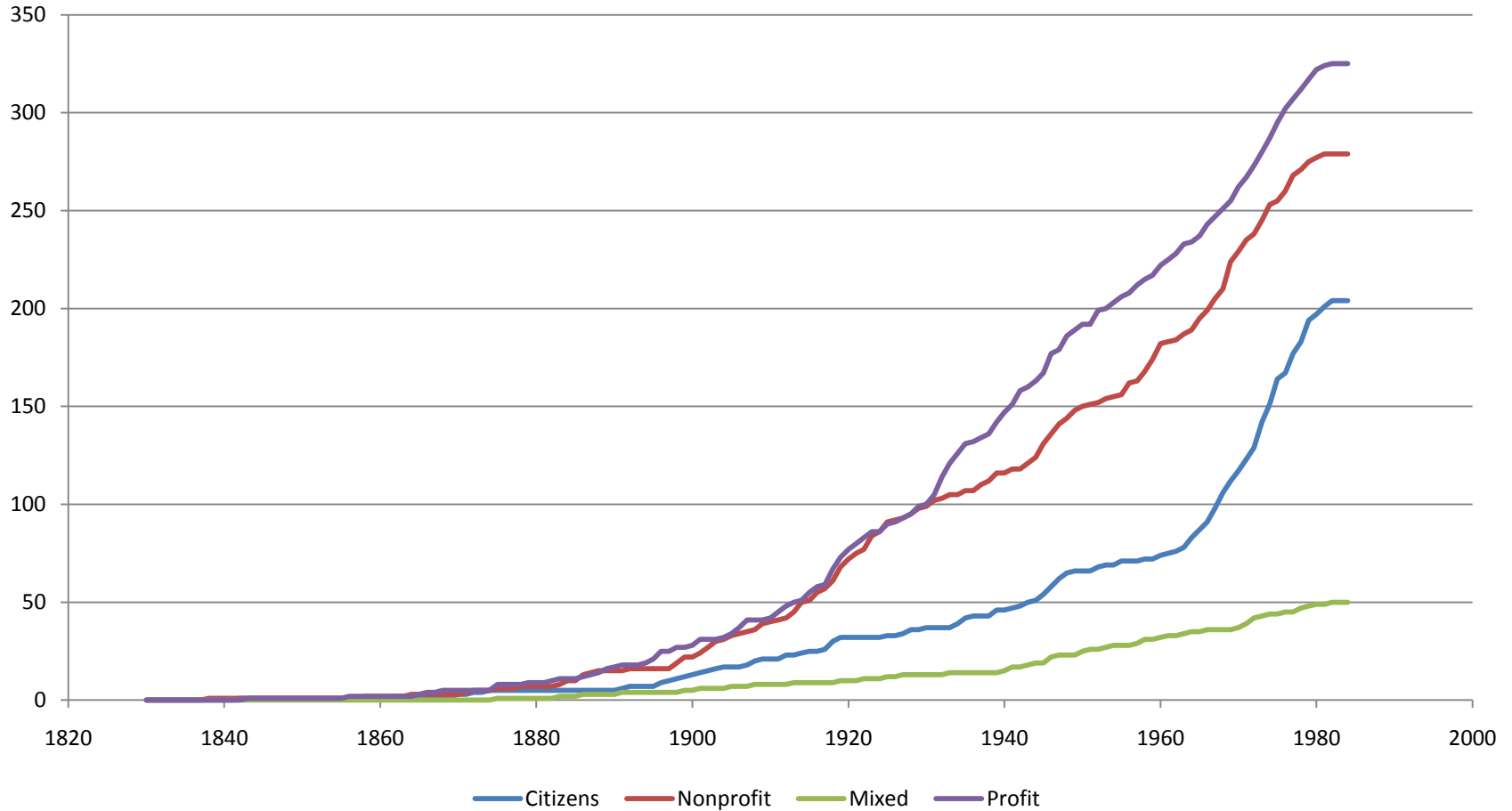
There were 7 trade groups per ag/env group in 1960, only 3 in 2005

ratio ag/env : trade

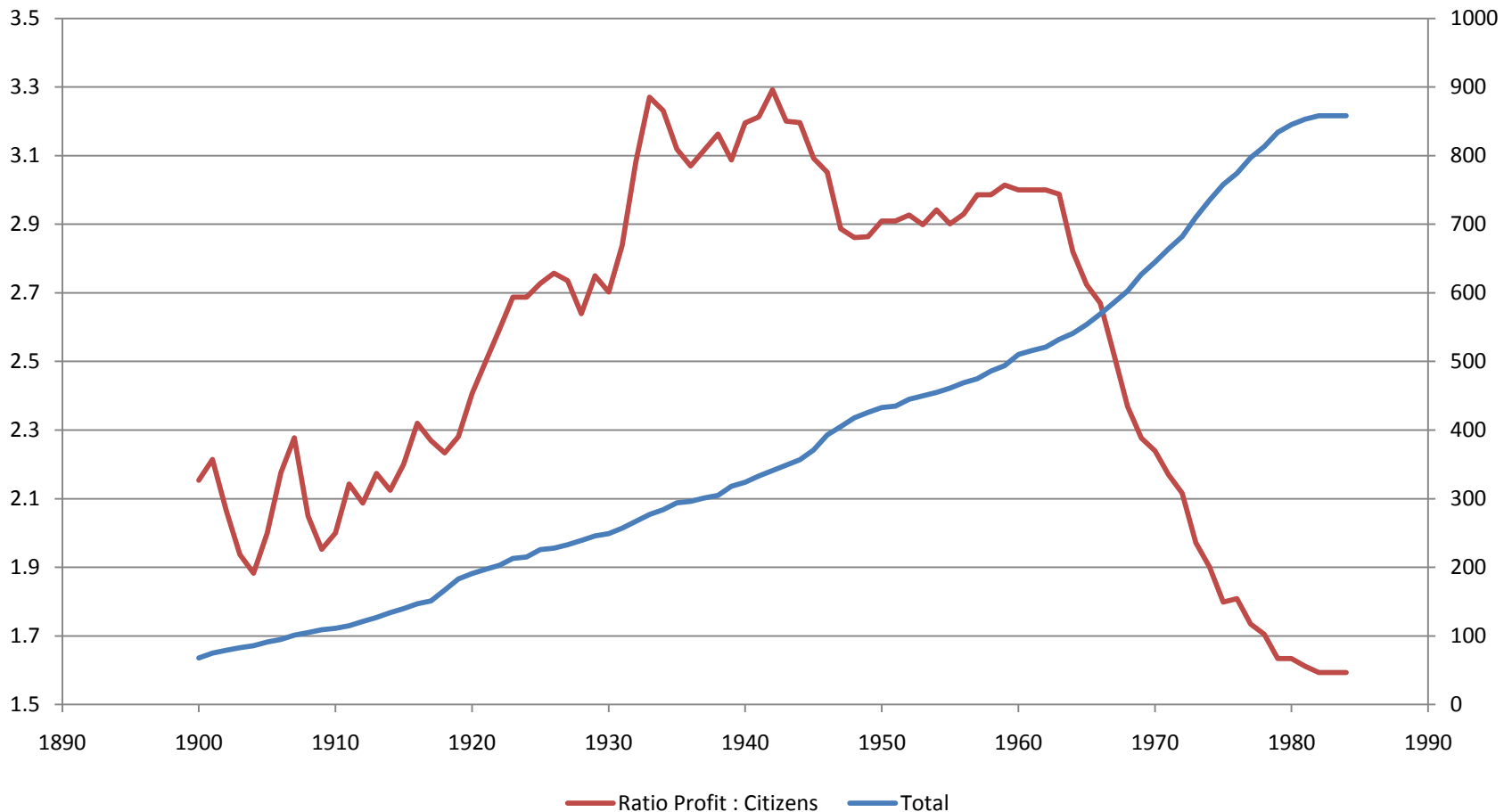


- Data from Jack L. Walker Jr., *Mobilizing Interest Groups in America* (1991)
- Based on a survey of 800+ interest groups active in Washington DC in 1985
- (I was the research assistant on this while I was in grad school!)

Citizens groups emerged late



The number of citizens groups as a percentage of profit-sector groups has shifted significantly over time.



Bottom line

- Significant drawbacks focus on those who seek public goods as opposed to those who seek private, selective goods.
- Public goods are typically under-produced in the market place and also in the “interest group marketplace”
- However, this is not constant over time.
- Political movements, social trends, money, govt attention, controversies, many things can affect the relative mobilization of interests over time.