



# Back of a Napkin Actuarial Estimates



Presented by:  
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# You are a Pool Board Director

You have 15 to 30 minutes to review and approve your actuarial report at the board meeting.

What do you look for?  
Are the results reasonable?



## Discussion points

- Set the framework for key estimates
- Extract the key estimates
  - Actuarial report
  - Financial statement
- Apply the back of a napkin estimates approach



## Tips

- Know and understand the key estimates needed for due diligence
- Round values to easy, whole numbers
  - e.g. round \$19,375,419 to \$20M.
- Don't sweat the details



## Focus on key estimates

1. Outstanding losses
  - Unpaid losses from prior years to be paid out in the future
2. Future (next year's) contributions
  - Projected losses
  - Expenses
3. Net position (surplus)
  - Solvency measure
4. Variability



## How the estimates fit in a financial statement

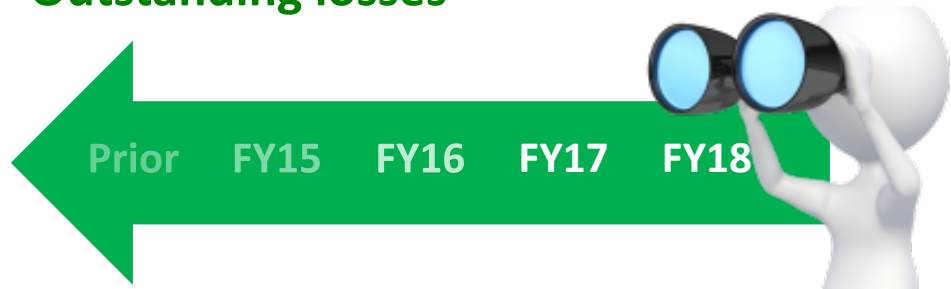
- Outstanding losses – *Statement of Net Position* (balance sheet)
- Contributions – *Statement of Revenues* (income statement)
- Payouts – *Statement of Cash Flows*
- Net position (aka surplus)
  - Surplus = assets *minus* liabilities - Balance sheet
  - Change in surplus - Income statement

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# Two time perspectives

## Outstanding losses



June 30, 2018



Projected contributions



## Outstanding losses

- Unpaid amount as of
  - Fiscal year-end June 30, 2018
  - Accounting date, e.g. quarter end March 31, 2019
- Comprised of:
  - Case reserves – estimated by claim adjuster or staff
  - IBNR – estimated by actuary
- Where do you find it?
  - Balance sheet
  - Actuarial report

## Case reserves

- Case reserves are known
  - Set claim-by-claim
  - Provided by staff or TPA at regular intervals: monthly or quarterly
  - Boards generally approve/discuss large claims
- How much IBNR to add to case reserves to obtain total outstanding losses?

## IBNR definition

- IBNYR: Claim not yet reported
  - About 5% to 10% of IBNR
- IBNER: Not enough reserved
  - Additional amount above case reserves to estimate ultimate settlement/payout
  - About 90% to 95% of IBNR
- Generally estimated in aggregate



## Two approaches to estimate outstanding losses

1. Start with prior year's estimate
2. Use current year's case reserves to estimate IBNRs



## 1<sup>st</sup> Approach

Start with prior year's estimate

## Two environments

1. Stable, steady-state
2. Large changes:
  - › Large exposure changes
    - e.g. added fleet of cars or new buildings
    - +/- membership
  - › Large or catastrophic claims emergence

## Estimate outstanding losses in a stable environment

- Preliminary estimate:
  - Start with prior year's o/s losses, e.g. \$20M
  - Reflect growth (exposure and loss rate), e.g. 2%
  - Current year's o/s loss estimate =  $\$20M + (2\% \times \$20M) = \$20.4M$
- This works in steady state or stable environment
- What is a stable environment?
  - Additional losses incurred in new year = approximately annual loss payments



## Estimate outstanding losses with large exposure changes

- Additional o/s losses =  
(exposure increase) x (loss rate) x (unpaid factor)
- Unpaid factor varies by coverage:
  - WC – 50%
  - Liability – 25%
  - Property – 20%
- Example:
  - New member with \$100M payroll; WC loss rate = \$1.50 per \$100 payroll
  - Additional o/s losses = (\$100M) x (\$1.50/100) x (50%) = \$750,000
  - Current year's o/s loss estimate = \$20M + \$0.75M = \$20.75M



## Estimate outstanding losses with large claims emergence

- Start with prior year's o/s losses, e.g. \$20M
- Add case reserves on large claims
- Add IBNR (10% to 20% of case reserves)
- Example:
  - Two large claims reserved at \$1M and \$3M
  - Increase due to large claims =  $(\$1M + \$3M) \times 20\% = \$4.8M$
  - Current year's o/s loss estimate =  $\$20M + \$4.8M = \$24.8M$



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Approach

Estimate IBNR

## IBNR ratio

- $O/S = \text{case reserves} + \text{IBNR}$
- $\text{IBNR} = \underline{\text{IBNR ratio}} \times \text{case reserves}$
- Ratio varies by coverage
  - Short tail, e.g. PR and APD – lower ratio
  - Medium tail, e.g. auto liability – mid range ratio
  - Long tail, e.g. WC – higher ratio



# IBNR ratio ranges

	0%	10%	25%	50%	75%	100%	125%	150%	200%
WC					75% to 125%				
GL				40% to 100%					
PR		10% to 25%							
AL				50% to 75%					
Excess LI								150% to 200%	
Large claims		10% to 20%							
Limited to SIR	0%								



## Estimate outstanding losses using IBNR ratio

- Outstanding losses = case reserves + (IBNR ratio x case reserves)
- Example:
  - WC case reserves = \$10M  
Selected IBNR ratio = 125%  
IBNR = 125% x \$10M = \$12.5 M  
O/S losses = \$10M + \$12.5 = \$22.5M

## Payouts

- In a stable, mature program,
  - Fiscal year payout = approximately new year's incurred losses
- Approximate number of years to pay out liabilities  
= outstanding losses / fiscal year payout
  - Example:  $\$20\text{M}/\$5\text{M} = 4$  years
- This metric ranges from 2 to 5 years
  - Varies by coverage: short tail vs long tail
  - If it changes from previous years, then ask why

## Investment income and discounting

- If discounting, then outstanding losses decrease by about:

	Discount Rate		
	1%	2%	3%
WC	-4%	-8%	-12%
GL	-1%	-3%	-4%

- Example
  - Undiscounted o/s losses = \$20M for GL; 1% discount rate
  - Discounted o/s losses = \$20M x (100%-1%= 99%) = \$19.8M
  - If discounting, then surplus increases by discount amount = \$200,000



## Reserve opinion

- Actuaries opine on the reasonability of outstanding losses in totality
- Final selection is management’s “best estimate”
- Board accepts the actuarial report and signs off on the financial estimate – their fiduciary responsibility





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# Two time perspectives

Outstanding losses



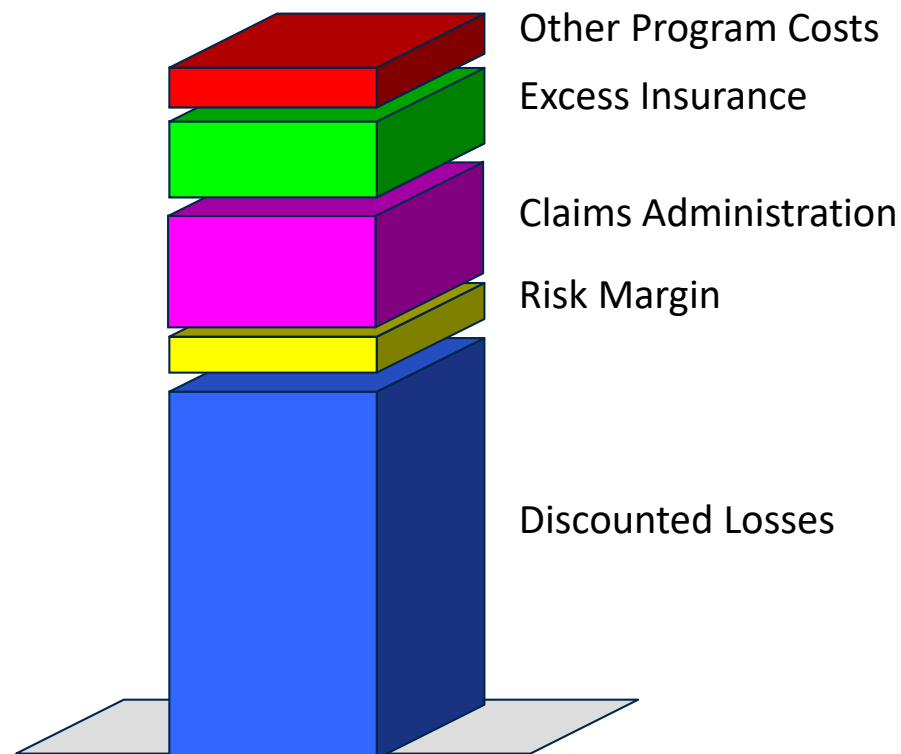
June 30, 2018



Projected contributions

## Contribution components

- Contributions comprised of:
  - Expected ultimate losses
  - Discounted or full value
  - Investment income anticipated
  - Risk margin
  - Claims administration
  - Excess insurance
  - Other program costs
- Contribution rate:
  - Divide contribution by exposure, (e.g. payroll per \$100 for WC)



## Project next year's losses

- Start with prior year's loss rate, e.g. \$1.50 per \$100 payroll
  - Or you can average last few years' rates – *well, then it is not back of the napkin!*
- Trend forward to next year's loss rate
  - Loss cost trend (excess of exposure growth)
  - Ranges from 1% to 3%
- Exposure growth
  - e.g. payroll (2% to 3%); or
  - +/- membership; or
  - +/- TIV



## Project next year's losses—Example

- Current year's loss rate = \$1.50 per \$100 payroll
- Next year's rate \$1.50 x 1.02
  - Assume loss rate trend = 2%
- Current year's payroll = \$100M
  - Assume payroll trend = 3%
- Next year's losses
  - = (Current loss rate x 1.02) x (current exposure x 1.03)
  - = (\$1.50 per \$100 of payroll x 1.02) x (\$100M x 1.03)
  - = \$1.6M

## Estimate expenses

- Expenses range from 20% (1/5) to 33% (1/3) of premiums (contributions)
  - Select 25%
  - Assume 75% loss ratio
  - Equivalent to adding 33% (= 25% divided by 75%) of projected losses
- Select high end of range if paying commissions



## Estimate contributions—Example

- Estimated losses = \$1.6M
- Expenses = 33% of losses
  - $1/3$  of \$1.6M  $\approx$  \$0.5M
- Contributions = losses + expenses  
= \$1.6M + \$0.5M = \$2.1M

## Reinsurance costs

- Start with prior year's and add percentage change
- Changes vary from 0% (flat) to 10%
  - Subject to market cycles
- (Re) Insurance market highly capitalized
- Negotiable – review your long-term large claims experience





## Estimate reinsurance costs

1. Find average annual excess losses
2. Add provision for:
  - a) Development and trend, and
  - b) Reinsurer's expenses



## Estimate reinsurance costs

- Review large claims above a threshold (near the SIR)
- Find average annual losses above threshold for 10 to 15 years
- Adjustments to average annual losses:
  - Add **about 50%** to average annual losses to account for development & trend
  - Add **about 50%** for reinsurer's expense and risk loading
  - Reinsurance cost = average annual losses
    - + 50% x average annual losses
    - + 50% x average annual losses
    - = 2 x average annual losses



## Estimate reinsurance costs, Beware!

- This approach provides the low end of the estimate
- Entity's experience may not be credible, hence may be combined with reinsurer's applicable book of business
  - Your entity/pool may not have large claims

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## Net position

- Key solvency metric
- Regulatory minimum
- Pool governance policy
- Shown on balance sheet as of the current accounting date

## Surplus metrics

- Use surplus to estimate financial ratios
  - Claim liabilities/surplus
    - › e.g. \$20M/20M = 1:1
  - Contributions/surplus
    - › e.g. \$15M/20M = 0.75:1
  - Surplus/SIR
    - › e.g. \$20M/1M = 20:1
  - Etc., like RBC,
    - › e.g. 600%, Authorized Control Level is at 200%
- Review several metrics and changes over time
- AGRiP has developed a database for such ratios

## Surplus accumulation

- Surplus built up gradually over time
  - Release surplus gradually, too!
- Sources of accumulation
  - Favorable underwriting results
    - › Losses emerged less than expected
  - Investment income
  - Addition to contributions
- Board policy/regulatory guidelines determine how much (minimum) surplus is needed



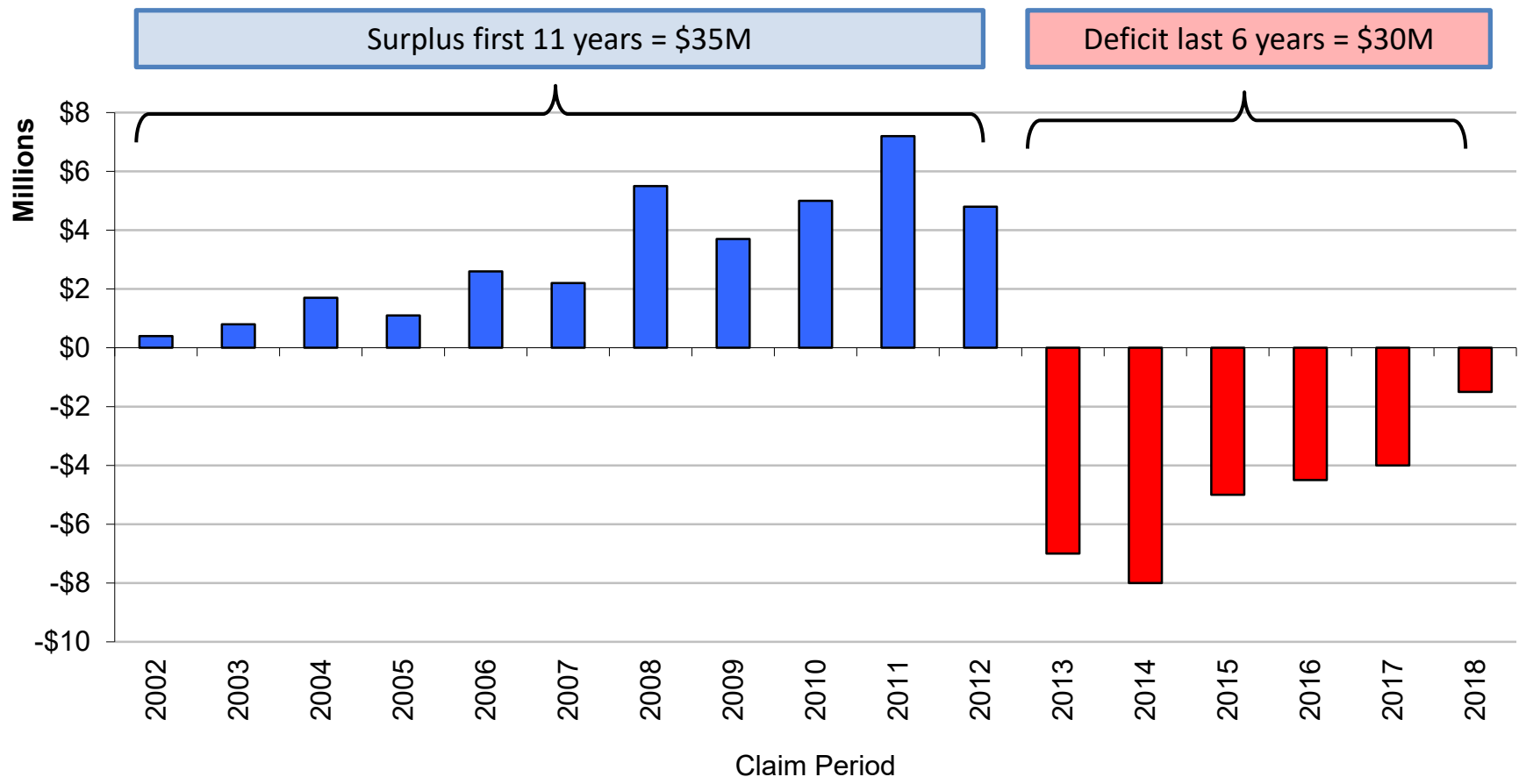
## Accumulated surplus decomposition

- Review how surplus accumulated
- Today's surplus position needs to be viewed over a longer time horizon



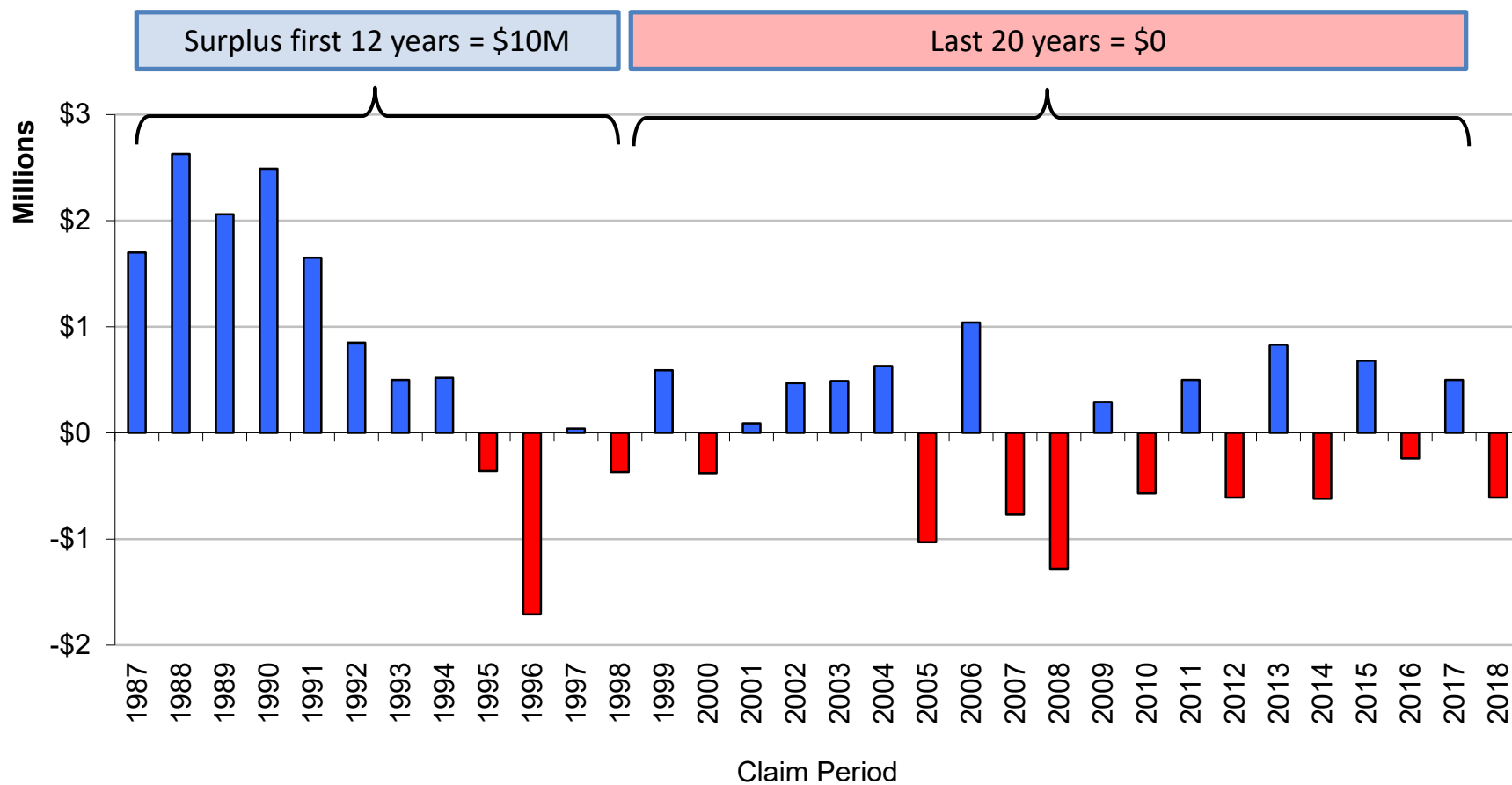


# Surplus at June 30, 2018 = \$5M





# Surplus at June 30, 2018 = \$10M



## Focus on key estimates

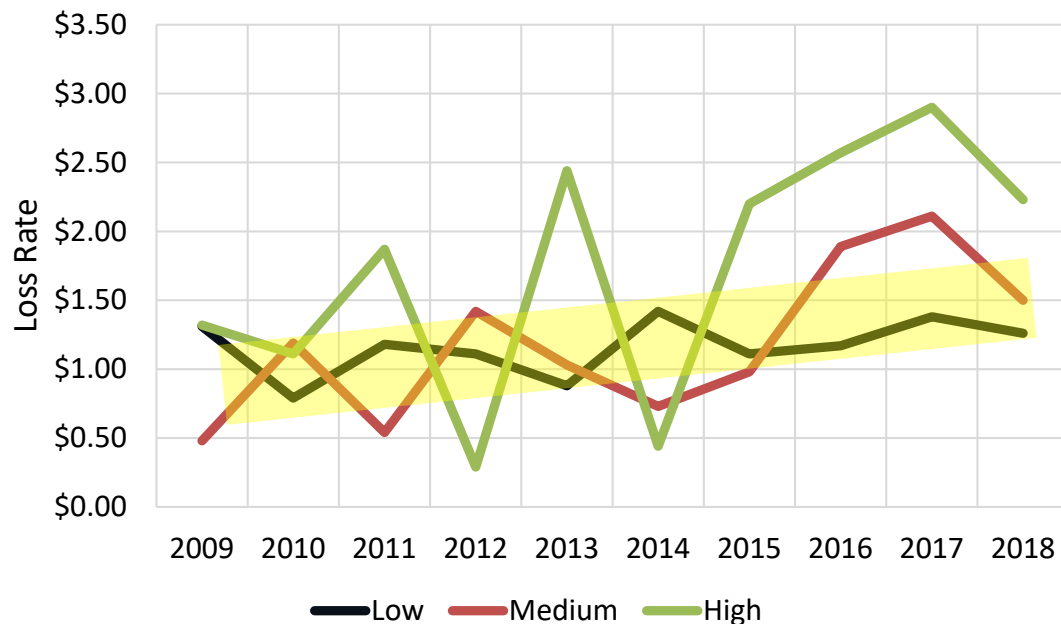
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## Variability

- Referred to as “confidence levels”
- Statistical measure of variability in loss experience
- Various measures:
  - Standard deviation, Coefficient of Variation (CV), Value at Risk (VaR)
  - Simulation of aggregate losses and ensuing percentiles
  - Produces returns in years
    - › e.g. 1 in 10 years (90% confidence level) or 1 in 100 years (99% confidence level), etc.

# Variability

- Review 10-year loss rate graph
- If approximately straight line, less variability
- If zig-zagging, more variability





## Confidence level factors—Example

- Projected 2019 losses = \$10M
- Want 80% confidence level for 2019 funding
- Experience is “medium” variable
- 80% confidence level losses = \$10M x 1.25 = \$12.5M

Variability	Confidence Level		
	70%	80%	90%
Low	1.05	1.15	1.25
Medium	1.10	1.25	1.45
High	1.15	1.50	1.75



## Case study

- This is for illustration.
- To customize your entity's factors, use average of last three years



## Case study: Estimate outstanding losses

	As of 12/31/17	Growth Factor	As of 12/31/18
<b>Approach 1 – Steady State</b>			
(A) Outstanding Losses	\$30M	5%	\$31.5M
<b>Approach 2</b>			
(B) Case Reserves			\$20M
(C) IBNR Ratio			40%
(D) IBNR (B x C)			\$8M
(E) Outstanding Losses (B + D)			\$28M





## Case study: Payouts

	Amount
Outstanding Losses as of 12/31/18	\$32M
2018 Loss Payments	\$10M
Ratio (~ Years to Pay Liabilities)	3 years



## Case study: Estimate contributions

	2018	Trend	2019
<b>Losses</b>			
(A) Loss Rate per \$100 Payroll	\$1.60	3%	\$1.65
(B) Payroll	\$725M	2%	\$740M
(C) Projected Losses (A x B / 100)	\$11.6M		\$12.2M
<b>Expenses</b>			
(D) Expense Ratio	33%		33%
(E) Projected Expenses (C x D)	\$3.9M		\$4.1M
<b>Total Contributions (C + E)</b>	<b>\$15.5M</b>		<b>\$16.2M</b>



## Case study: Surplus metrics

	Amount	Ratio to Surplus
Surplus as of 12/31/18	\$25M	
O/S Losses as of 12/31/18	32M	1.3
2018 Contributions	25M	1.0
SIR	0.5M	50



## Caveat

- Factors in this presentation are based on industry data and professional judgment
- Your entity's results may be different
- This presentation provides an approach for back of the napkin estimates



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