# Pandemics, Politics & P/C Insurance The Indelible Legacy of COVID-19

### Casualty Actuarial Society Ratemaking Seminar March 17, 2021

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#### Pandemics & P/C Insurance: Outline

- P/C Financial Overview & Outlook Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic
- COVID-19: Actual vs. Expected Impacts on Key Lines
- Investment Market Issues: Volatility Rules, Low Interest Rates are Back
- The Economy and COVID-19: Overview & Outlook
- CAT Loss Update
- Commercial Lines Rate Trends
- **COVID-19 Litigation Trends**
- Summary and Q&A

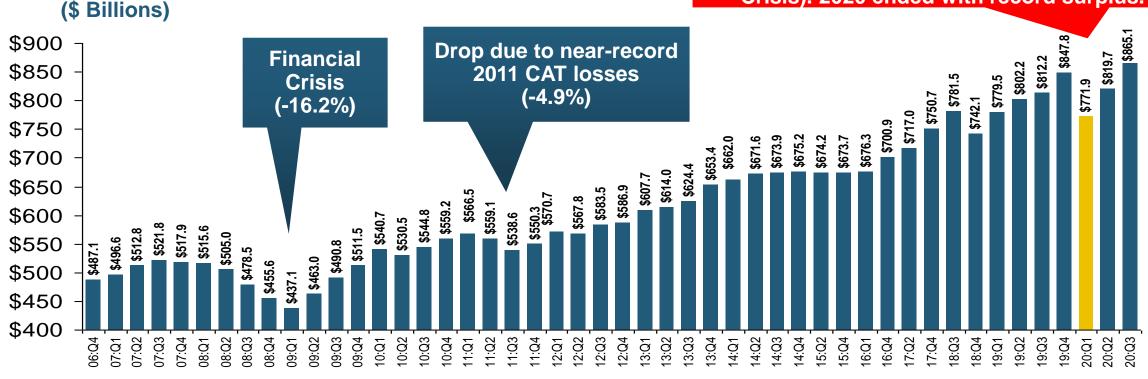
# P/C Insurance Industry: Financial Overview Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

The P/C Insurance Industry Entered the COVID-19 Pandemic from a Position of Financial Strength

Economic, Financial Market, Regulatory and Tort Risks Are Major Challenges Going Forward

### Policyholder Surplus (Capacity), 2006:Q4–2020:Q3

The P/C insurance industry entered the COVID-19 pandemic from a position strength and was able to withstand the 9.0% surplus decline in Q1 2020 (far less than during the Financial Crisis). 2020 ended with record surplus.

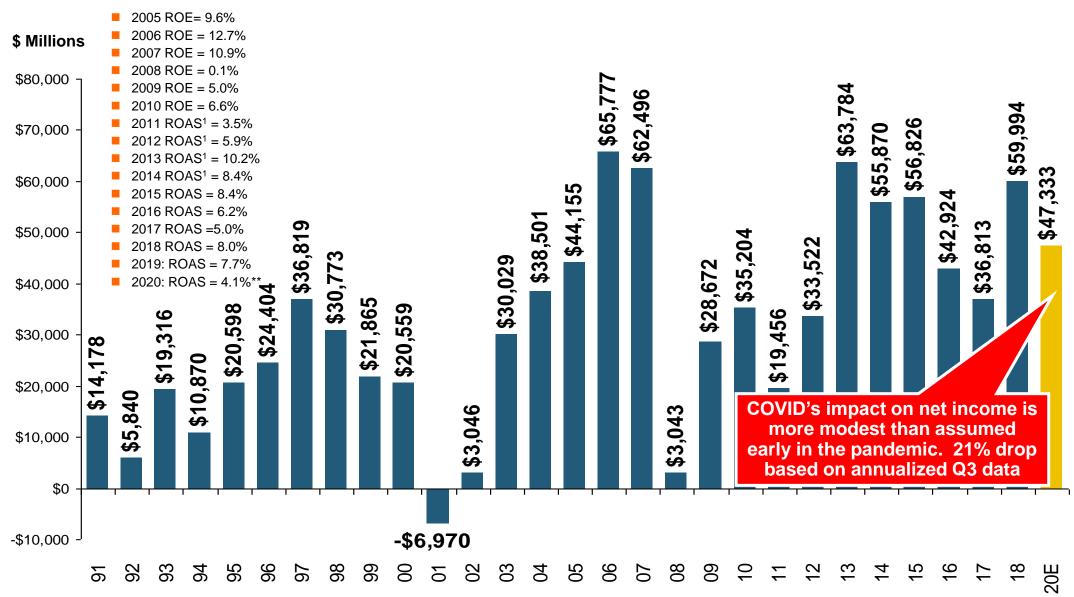


2010:Q1 data includes \$22.5B of paid-in capital from a holding company parent for one insurer's investment in a non-insurance business.

Sources: ISO, A.M .Best; Risk and Uncertainty Management Center, University of South Carolina.

Policyholder Surplus is the industry's financial cushion against large insured events, periods of economic stress and financial market volatility. It is also a source of capital to underwrite new risks.

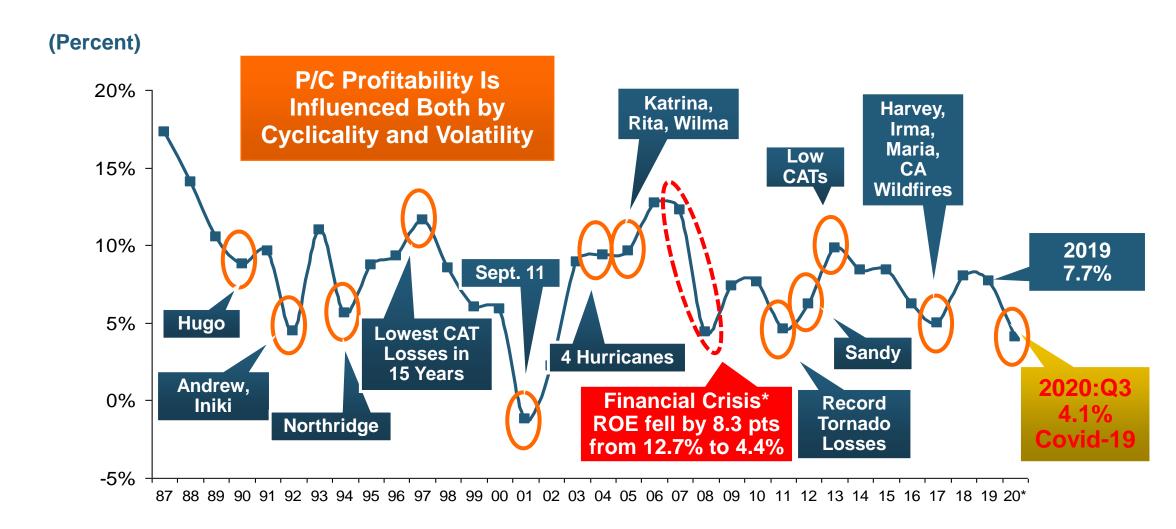
### P/C Industry Net Income After Taxes, 1991–2020E\*



<sup>\*2020</sup> estimate based on annualized actual Q3:20 figure of \$35.5B. ROE figures are GAAP; <sup>1</sup>Return on avg. surplus. Excludes Mortgage & Financial Guaranty insurers for years (2009-2014). \*\*Through Q3 2020. A,M, Best estimate for 2020 is \$48.8B (as of 2/25/21).

Sources: A.M. Best, ISO.

### ROE: Property/Casualty Insurance by Major Event, 1987–2020:Q3\*



<sup>\*</sup>Excludes Mortgage & Financial Guarantee in 2008 – 2014. 2020:H1 estimate is based on actual Q1 2020 figure of 8.8%. Sources: ISO, *Fortune*; USC RUM Center.

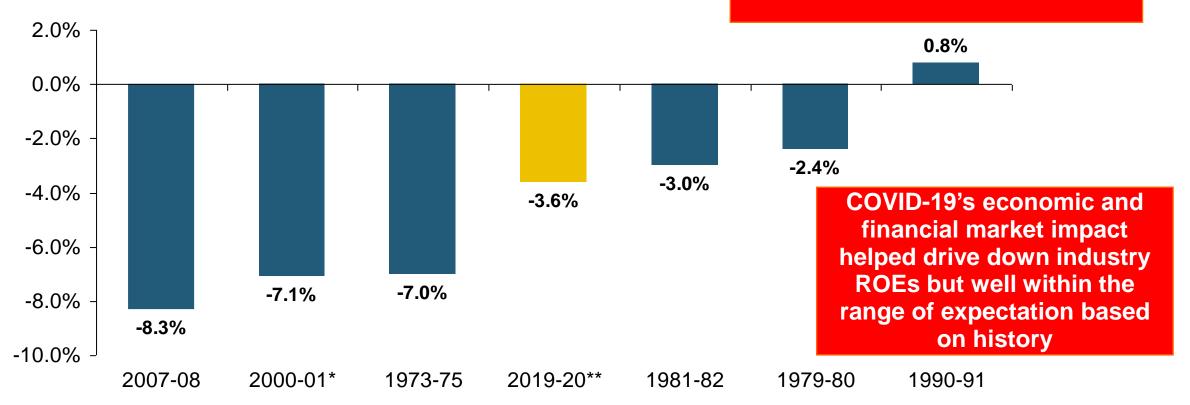
## Percentage Point Change in P/C ROEs During Past Economic Downturns: 1971 - Present

Percentage Point Change

Change in P/C ROE During Past Economic Downturns (pre-Covid)

Avg.: -4.5% (-4.0% ex. 2000-01)

Median: -5.0% (-3.0% ex. 2000-01)



<sup>\*2000-2001</sup> decline impacted by 9/11 losses.

Source: USC Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management.

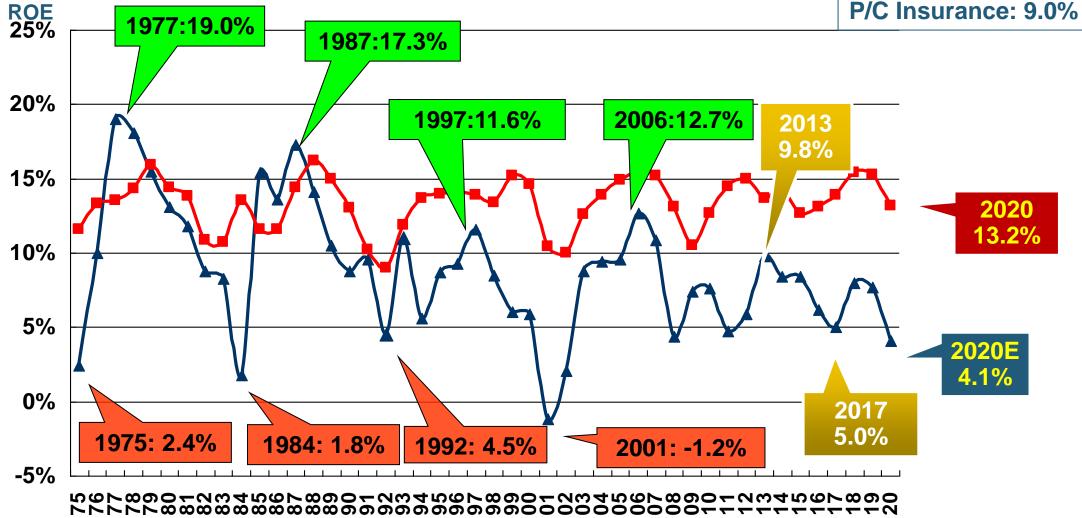
<sup>\*\*</sup>As of Q3 2020 vs. annualized Q3 2019 figure

### **P/C Insurance ROE vs. Fortune 500, 1975–2020E\***

**Average: 1975-2019** 

Fortune 500: 13.3%





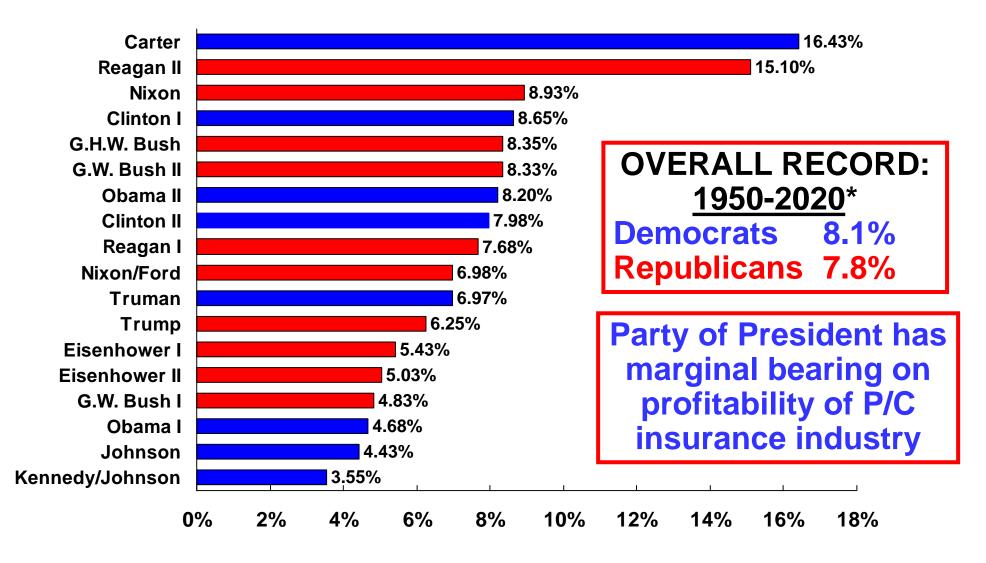
\*2020 Fortune 500 figure is an estimate. P/C figure is actual through Q3 2020.

Profitability = P/C insurer ROEs. 2011-20 figures are estimates based on ROAS data. Note: Data for 2008-2014 exclude mortgage and financial guaranty insurers. Source: NAIC, ISO, Fortune.

### **Profitability & Politics**

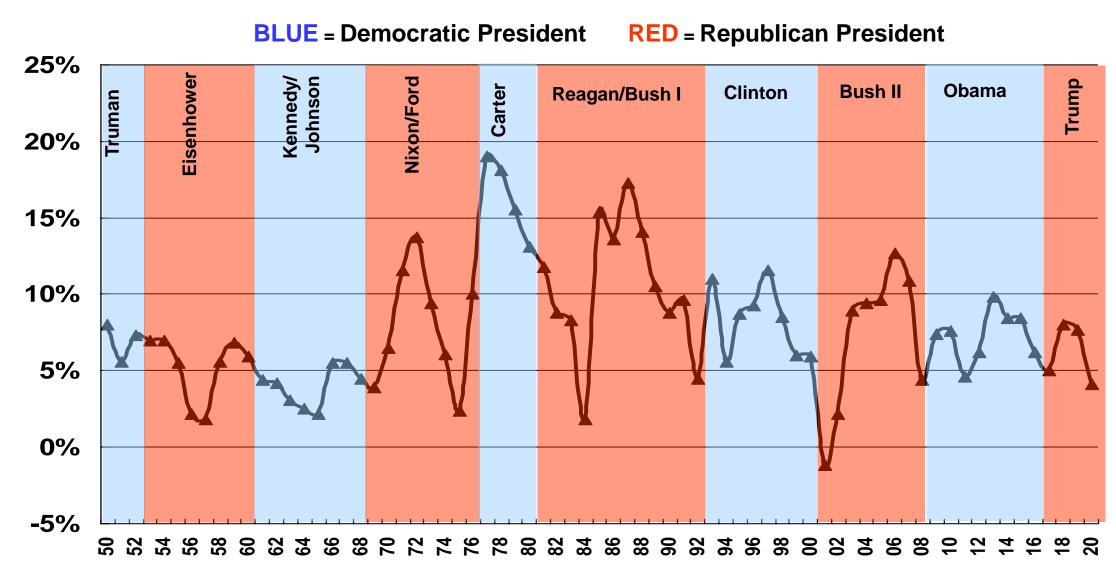
## How Is Profitability Affected by the President's Political Party?

### P/C Insurance Industry ROE by Presidential Administration, 1950-2020\*



<sup>\*</sup>Trump figure is 2017-2020:Q3 average. ROEs for the years 2008-2014 exclude mortgage and financial guaranty segments. Source: Risk and Uncertainty Management Center, University of South Carolina.

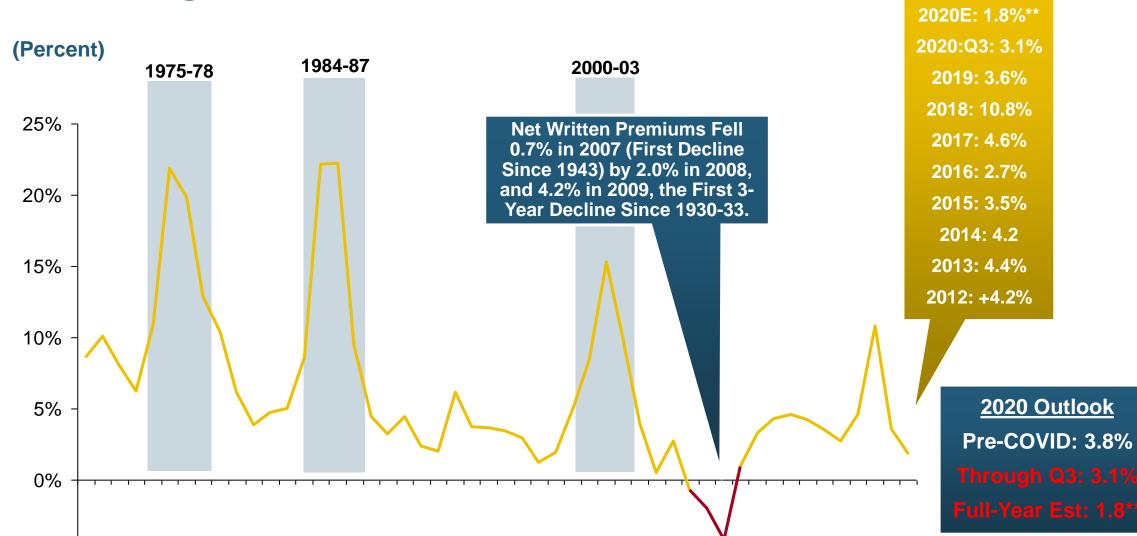
### P/C insurance Industry ROE by Presidential Party Affiliation, 1950- 2020\*



## Growth and Underwriting Performance

## COVID-19 Has Had a Mixed Impact on the P/C Insurance Industry

## Net Premium Growth (All P/C Lines): Annual Change, 1971—2020E

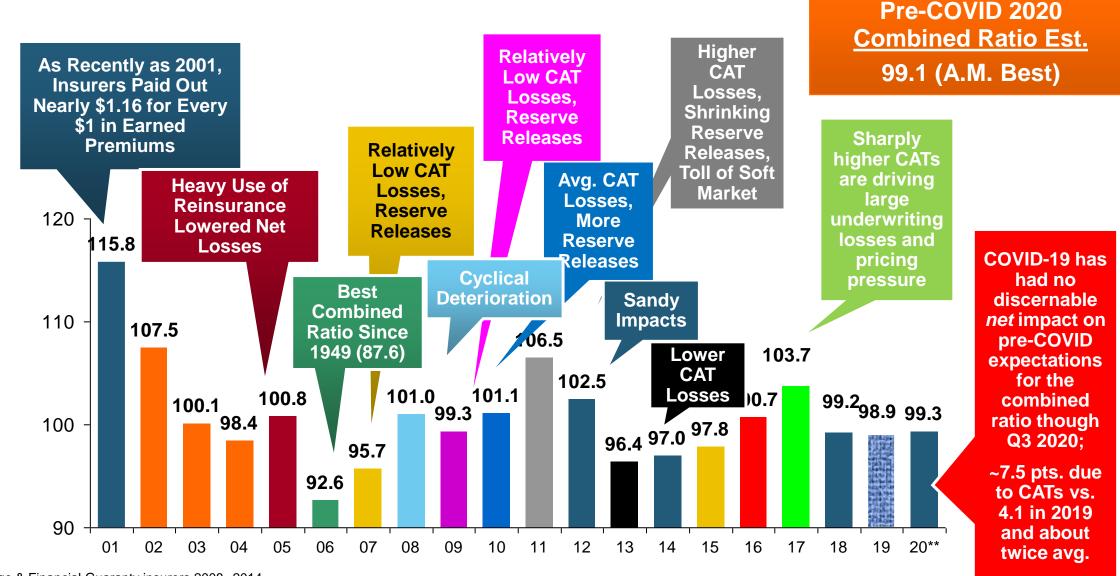


2020F: 3.8%\*

-5%

<sup>\* \*\*</sup>Pre/Post-COVID-19 forecast from A.M. Best Review & Preview (Feb. 2020, 2021). NOTE: Shaded areas denote "hard market" periods Sources: A.M. Best (1971-2013, 2020F), ISO (2014-19); Risk & Uncertainty Management Center, Univ. of South Carolina .

### P/C Insurance Industry Combined Ratio, 2001–2020E\*\*



<sup>\*</sup>Excludes Mortgage & Financial Guaranty insurers 2008--2014.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Estimate from A.M. Best Review and Preview (Feb. 2021). Actual though first 9 months 2020 was 98.7. Sources: A.M. Best, ISO (2014-2019).

## How Have Actual Results Differed from Reality?

A Review of Early Predictions of COVID's Impact on Insurers

US P/C Results Have Generally Been Better than Anticipated

## Potential Impacts of COVID-19 on *Written Premium* in 2020, by Key Line

Line	Estimated Premium Impact
Workers Compensation	12.5% to 25% reduction in premium written in 2020 (equates to \$5.9B to \$11.75B DWP)
Business Interruption & Contingency	7% to 13% reduction in premium volume (US & UK)
General Liability*	\$1.5B to \$6.3B premium reduction in US
	~\$10B in refunds, rebates (equates to ~4% of DWP)
Personal Travel Insurance	29% to 78% reduction in premium written (US & UK)
Personal/Comm. Motor	~10% reduction in US; 0% to 11% reduction in UK
Marine/Aviation/Transport	\$0.7B-\$1.5B (US); \$0.6 - \$1.2B (UK)

<sup>\*</sup>Includes nursing home professional liability.

### Potential Impacts of COVID-19 on *LOSSES* in 2020, by Key Line

Line	Estimated Loss Impact
Workers Compensation	\$0.2B - \$92B (depends on severity of pandemic and "presumption" determination)
Business Interruption & Contingency	\$2B - \$22B (US); \$1.1B - \$13.9B (UK)
General Liability*	\$0.7B to \$27B loss across US & Bermuda markets
Personal/Comm. Motor	\$26B - \$57B reduction in personal auto and \$4.2B - \$9.4B commercial (US); \$1 - \$7B overall reduction in UK
Mortgage	\$0 - \$1.7B loss across US & Bermuda markets
D&O	\$0.6 - \$4.0 loss across US & Bermuda markets
Marine/Aviation/Transport	\$0.3B-\$1.3B reduction (US); \$0.6 - \$1.1B (UK)

<sup>\*</sup>Includes nursing home professional liability.

## COVID-19 Announced Losses vs. Top-Down Industry Estimates (as of May 12, 2020)

Lloyd's: Says its own p/c claims could reach \$4.3B by June 30. Estimates global p/c losses at \$107B; Global investment losses = \$96B\*



\*Lloyd's CEO John Neil appearance on CNBC, May 14, 2020: <a href="https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/14/lloyds-of-london-coronavirus-will-be-largest-loss-on-record-for-insurers.html">https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/14/lloyds-of-london-coronavirus-will-be-largest-loss-on-record-for-insurers.html</a>
Sources: Company disclosures, Dowling & Partners, Barclays Research, Autonomous Research, BofA Global Research, UBS Securities, Willis Towers Watson from Artemis.bm accessed at <a href="https://www.artemis.bm/news/consensus-emerging-on-30bn-to-100bn-covid-19-industry-loss-willis-re/">https://www.artemis.bm/news/consensus-emerging-on-30bn-to-100bn-covid-19-industry-loss-willis-re/</a>; Risk and Uncertainty Management Center, University of South Carolina.

## Reasons Why P/C Insurance Worst-Case COVID Scenarios Failed to Materialize (So Far)

- Economic Recovery Proceeding More Quickly than Anticipated
- Rapid Financial Market Recovery (and then some...)
- Massive Government Stimulus and Accommodative Fed Policy
- **Worst-Case Epidemiological Outcome Avoided**
- Record Pace of Vaccine Development
- Employers Did a Reasonably Good Job Protecting Workers from Exposure
- Many States Did Not Repeat Spring 2020 Lockdowns
- Litigation Outcomes Generally Favor Insurers
- **WC Presumption Expansions Did Not Lead to Explosion in Claims**
- Offsetting Exposure Reductions in Many Lines

# BUT... There Is No Questions that the Economic Consequences of COVID Are Massive and Ongoing

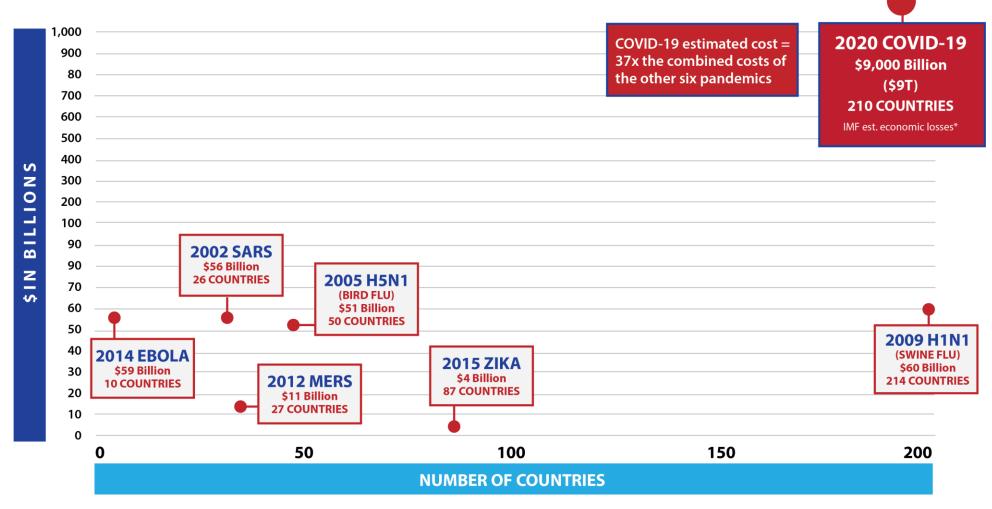
The Economic Costs of COVID Vastly Outstrip the Insured Loss Component

### Viral Outbreaks Are Not An Insurable Risk

Pandemics
are frequent,
severe, and
widespread
(7 pandemics
with multibillion\$
cconomic
losses in just
the last 18
years)

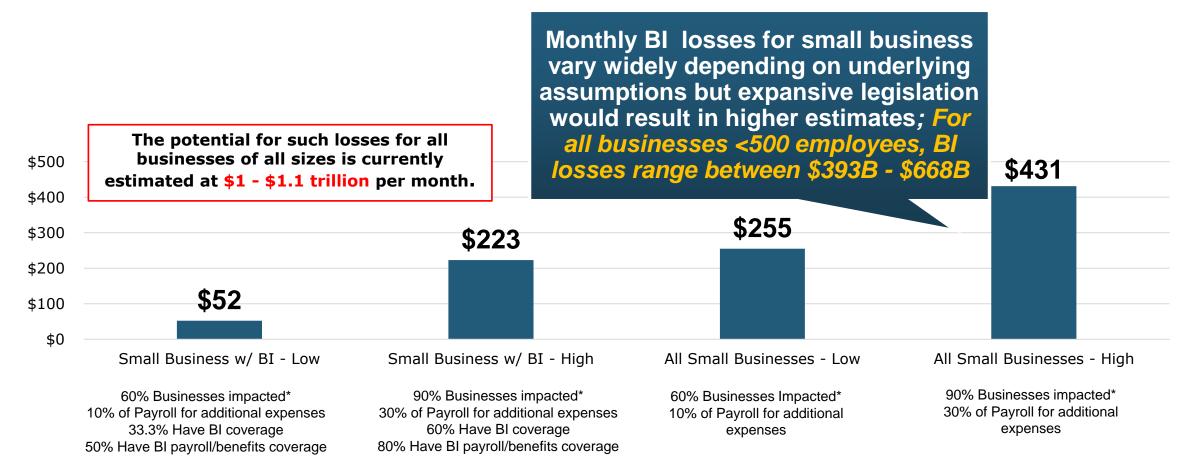
# For Reference 2005 Katrina \$58 Billion 2001 9/11 \$48 Billion (insured losses)

#### **Economic Losses from Pandemics**



<sup>\*</sup>Sources: APCIA using published reports, including IMF, World Bank, Learnbonds.com; APCIA adjustment to 2020 USD

### Estimated Monthly U.S. Business Interruption Coronavirus Losses for Small Business—Potential Range (<100 Employees; \$Bill)



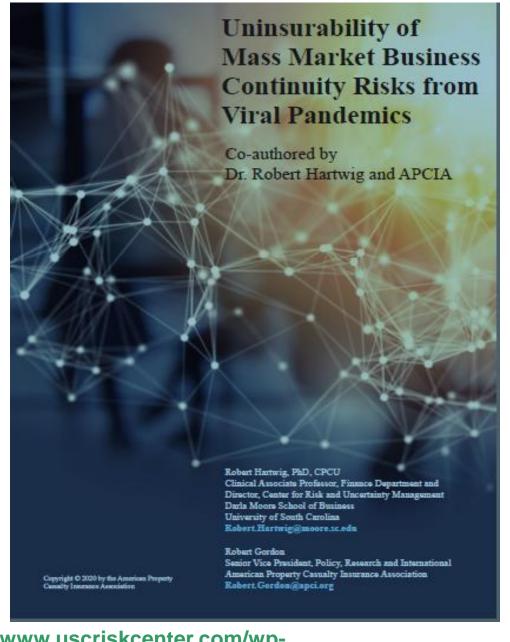
<sup>\*</sup> Businesses impacted: Proportion of businesses completely or substantially closed related to coronavirus Assumptions: Losses if standard insurance policy exclusions for viruses/pandemics are voided and physical loss/damage requirement is stricken; three main coverages - profit lost, payroll/benefits, additional expenses; average annual \$2m revenue and 7% profit margin; non-wage benefits of small businesses are 25% less than that for average US businesses

Source: APCIA, April 2020.

## Paper on Insurability of Pandemic Risk

- Large scale business continuity risks from pandemics are generally note insurable in the private sector
- Business continuity risks are largely undiversifiable within private insurance markets and are highly correlated with other risks (e.g., investment risks)
- Large scale business continuity losses pose a potentially systemic risk to the industry and overall economy

Import role for government



Download at: <a href="https://www.uscriskcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Uninsurability-of-Pandemic-Risk-White-Paper-Hartwig-APCIA-FINAL-WORD.pdf">https://www.uscriskcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Uninsurability-of-Pandemic-Risk-White-Paper-Hartwig-APCIA-FINAL-WORD.pdf</a>

Government Mandated Business Closures Were the Real Black Swan, Not the Coronavirus



- The US (and world) has endured several other major infectious disease outbreaks killing 100,000+ Americans without shutting down the economy
  - Hong Kong Flu (1968-70)
  - Asian Flu (1957-58)

- It is the reaction to the virus that is unprecedented and represents the *true* Black Swan event
- The ramifications of this decision will be consequential for a generation (e.g., \$4 trill. in debt)

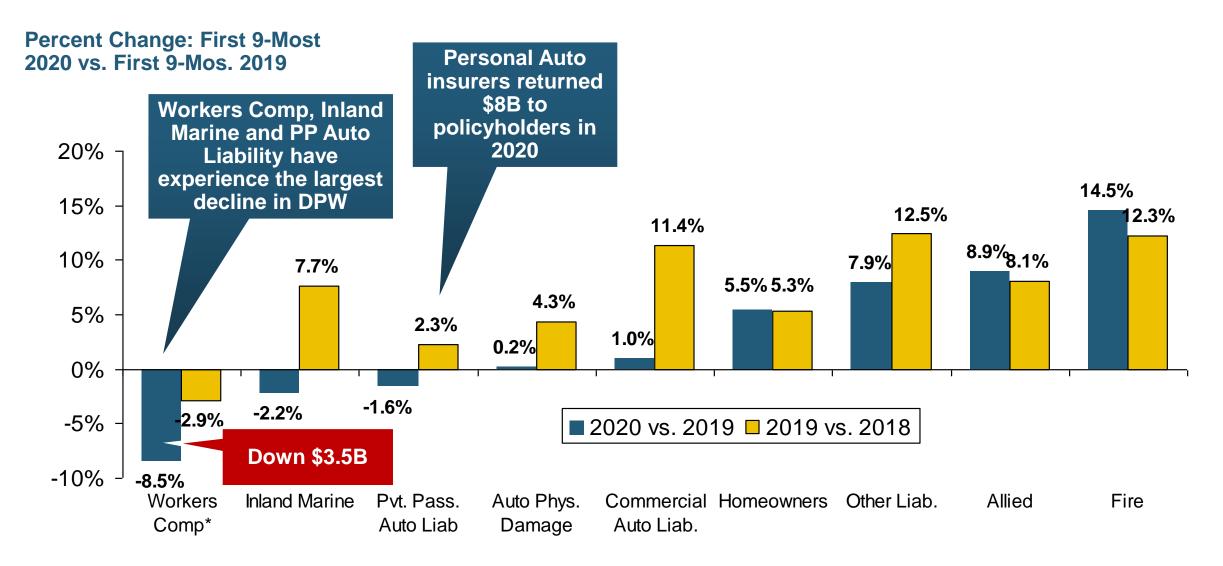


**COVID-19: Impacts on Premiums and Claims** 

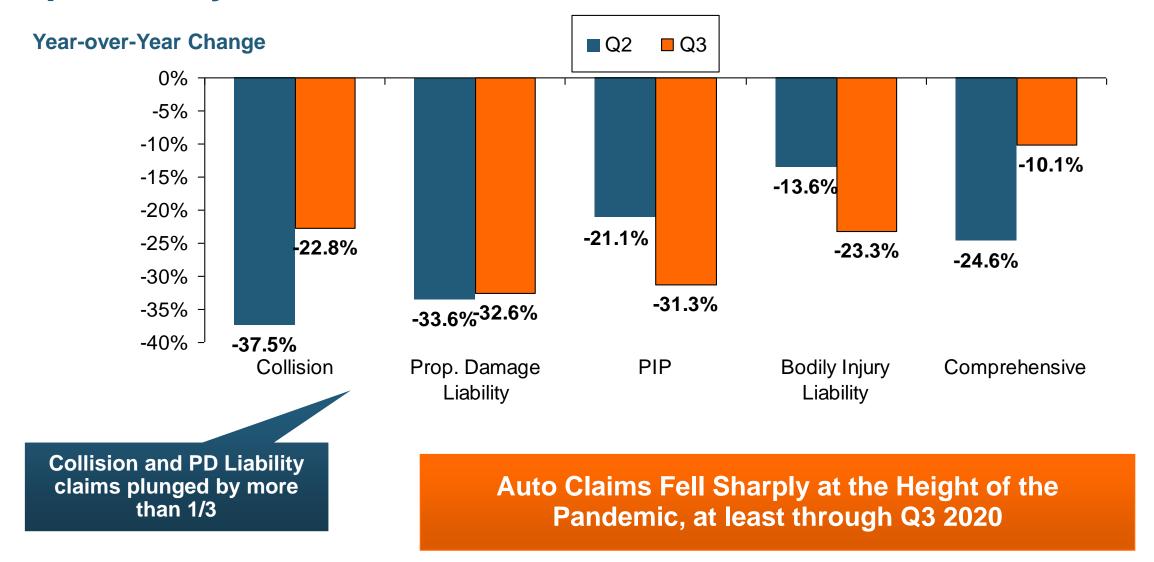
## **Economically Sensitive Commercial Lines**Were Most Impacted in Terms of Growth

Auto Claims Plunged During the Early Stage of COVID—Will Claims Spike as the Economy Recovers?

### COVID's Impact on DPW Growth for Largest P/C Lines: First 9-Mos. 2020 and 2019 vs. Same Period Previous Year



### Personal Auto Claim Frequency Trends Significantly Impacted by COVID: Q2 and Q3 2020 vs. Q2 and Q3 2019



# Catastrophe Loss Update: *Major Driver of Rate Pressure*

The 2020s Got Off to an Ominous Start

CAT Losses for the 2010s Were Up Materially—Costliest Ever

Primary, Reinsurance and Retro Markets
All Impacted and Are Pressuring Rates

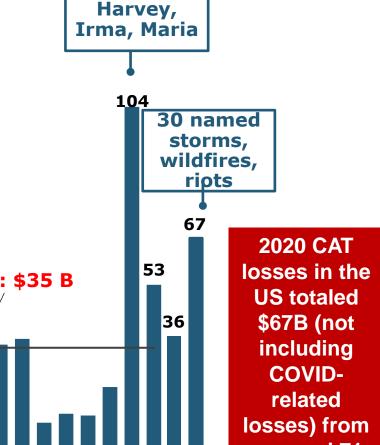
### 2020 U.S. Insured Catastrophe Highlights

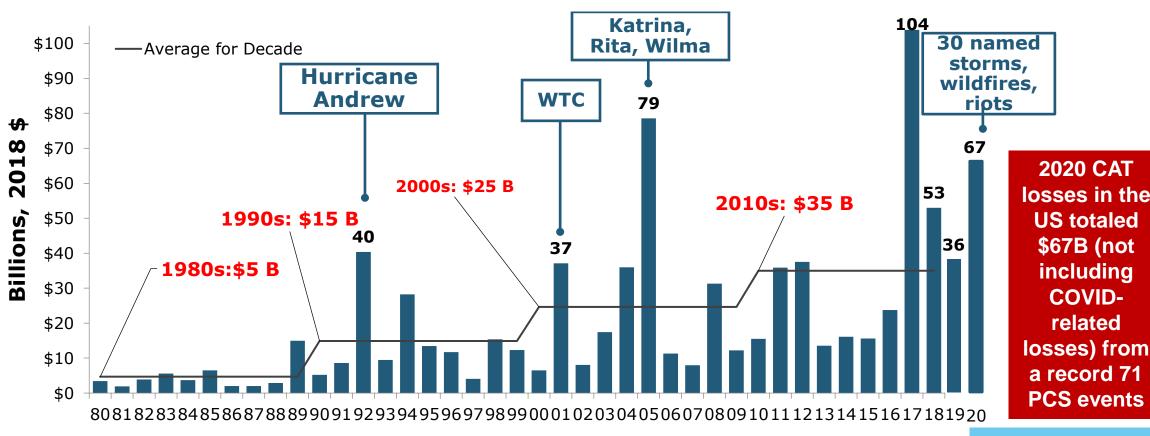
- \$67B in insured nat CAT losses—(3<sup>rd</sup> costliest year ever behind 2017, 2005)
- 71 designated PCS CATs, the most in PCS's 72-year history
- 10 declared hurricane/TS events, a PCS record (30 named storms in 2020)
  - ~\$26B insured losses in North America
- 17 declared wildfire events, a new record (6 events in 2017 = previous record)
  - ~\$11B insured
- ~5 million CAT claims
- 18 PCS events with insured losses > \$1B, a new record

February 2021 winter storm and extreme cold in the south caused an estimated \$10B - \$20B in insured losses

-\$1.5B in insured riot losses + other unusual manmade events (Nashville)

### **U.S. Inflation-Adjusted Insured Cat Losses**





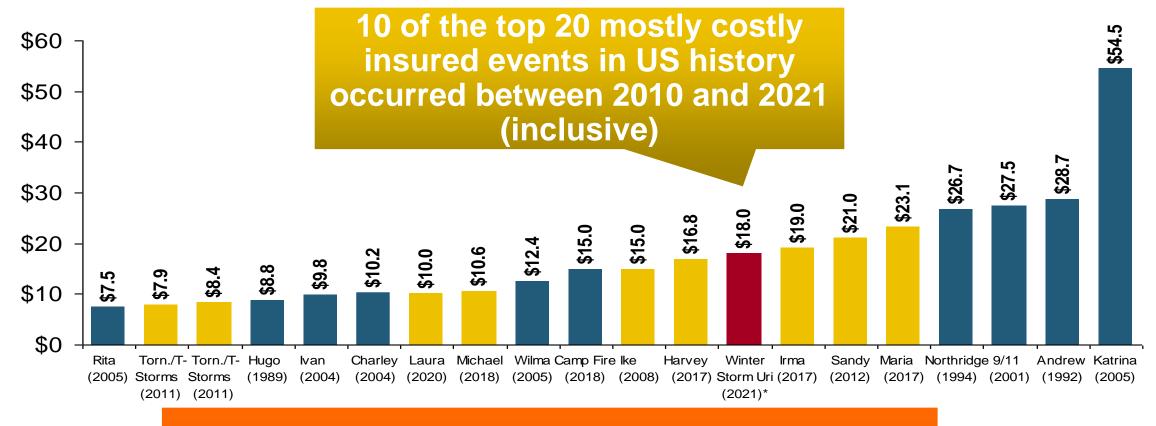
Average Insured Loss per Year for 1980-2020 is \$22.2 Billion

Sources: Property Claims Service, a Verisk Analytics business (1980-2019); 2020 figure from Munich Re; Insurance Information Institute: University of South Carolina, Risk & Uncertainty Management Center.

2021 is off to an ominous start with ~\$18B in estimated insured losses from Winter Storm Uri

### Top 20 Most Costly Disasters in U.S. History—Katrina Still Ranks #1

(Insured Losses, 2020 Dollars, \$ Billions)\*

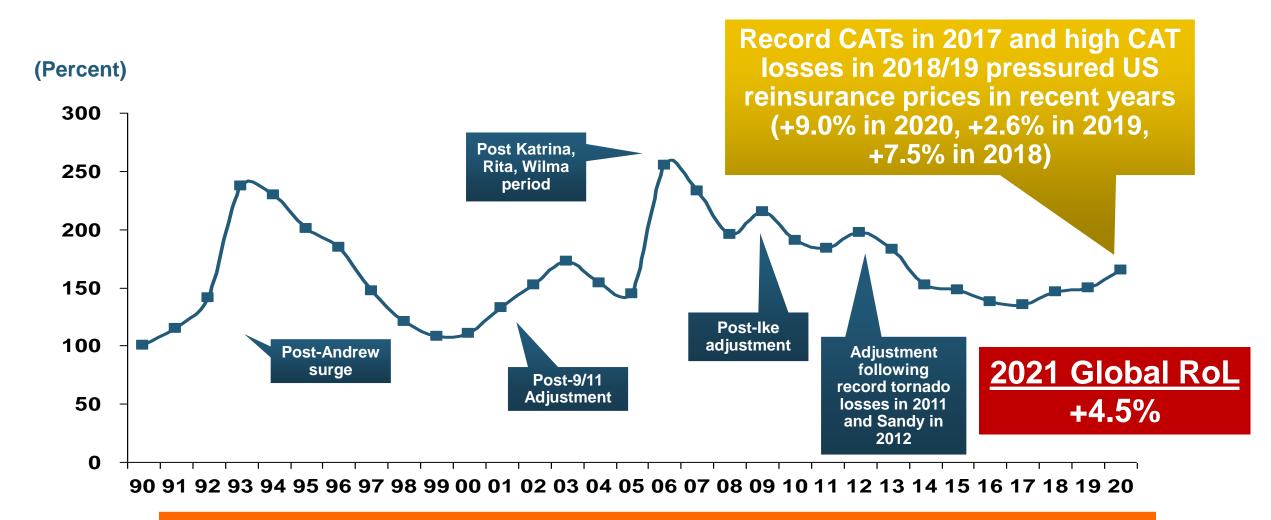


17 of the 20 Most Expensive Insurance Events in US History Have Occurred Since 2004

Sources: PCS, RMS, Karen Clark & Co; USC Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management adjustments to 2020 dollars using the CPI.

<sup>\*</sup>Estimated (in 2021 dollars)

### **US Property Catastrophe Rate-on-Line Index:** 1990 – 2020\*

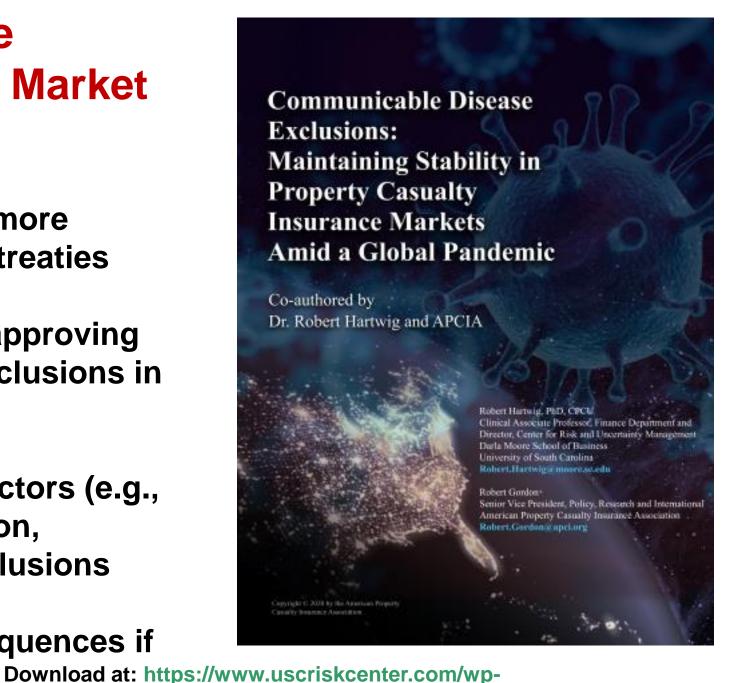


US Reinsurance Pricing Is Sensitive to CAT Activity and Ultimately Impacts Primary Insurance Pricing, Terms and Conditions.

<sup>\*</sup>As of January 1 each year.

# Paper on Communicable Disease Exclusions and Market Stability

- CD exclusions are becoming more commonplace in reinsurance treaties
- Regulators are generally not approving primary insurers filings for exclusions in underlying primary policies
- Paper addresses the global factors (e.g., accumulation risk, risk aversion, uninsurability) driving the exclusions
- Also addresses market consequences if misalignment persists
  Download at: h



### INVESTMENTS: THE NEW REALITY

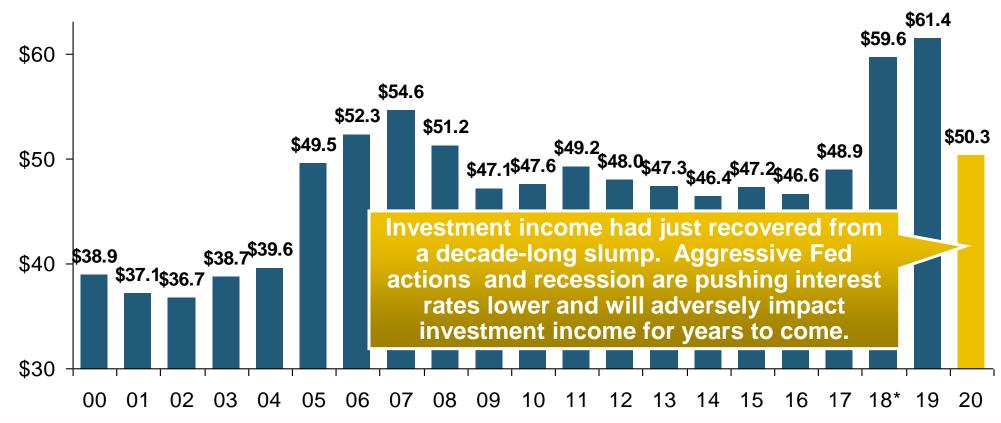
## Investment Performance Is a Key Driver of Insurer Profitability

Aggressive Rate Cuts Will Adversely Impact Invest Insurer Earnings

Financial Crisis Déjà Vu?

### Property/Casualty Insurance Industry Investment Income: 2000–2020E

(\$ Billions)

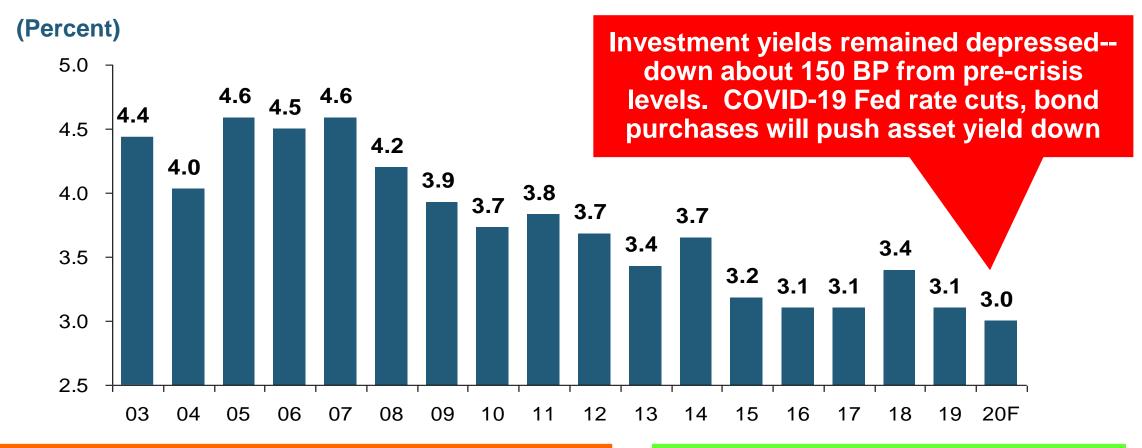


Due to persistently low interest rates, investment income remained below pre-crisis levels for a decade. Lower interest rates post-COVID will drive investment income down once again.

<sup>\*2020</sup> figure is annualized based on YTD Q3 actual of \$37.7B. 2018-19 figures are distorted by provisions of the TCJA of 2017. Increase reflects such items as dividends from foreign subsidiaries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Investment gains consist primarily of interest and stock dividends. Sources: ISO; University of South Carolina, Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management.

### **Net Investment Yield on Property/Casualty Insurance Invested Assets, 2007–2020F\***

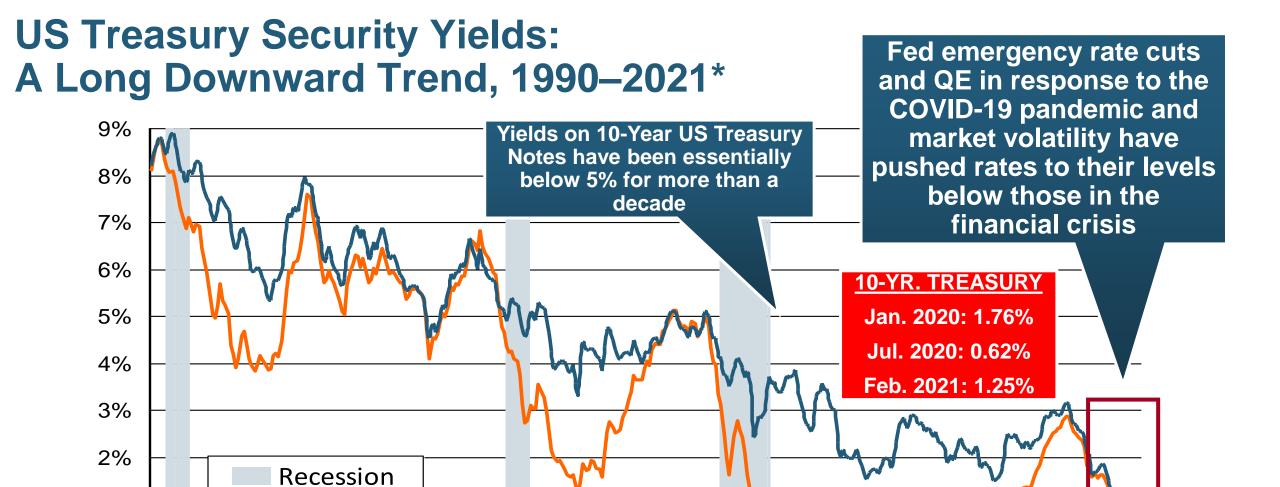


The yield on invested assets remains low relative to precrisis yields. Fed rate increases beginning in late 2015 through 2018 halted the slide in yields, but rate cuts in 2019/2020 will preclude future gains

Average: 1960-2019 = 4.9%

Low: 2.8% (1961)

High: 8.2% (1984/85)



'90'91'92'93'94'95'96'97'98'99'00'01'02'03'04'05'06'07'08'09'10'11'12'13'14'15'16'17'18'19<mark>'20'2</mark>1

Since roughly 80% of P/C bond/cash investments are in 10-year or shorter durations, most P/C insurer portfolios will have low-yielding bonds for many years to come.

1%

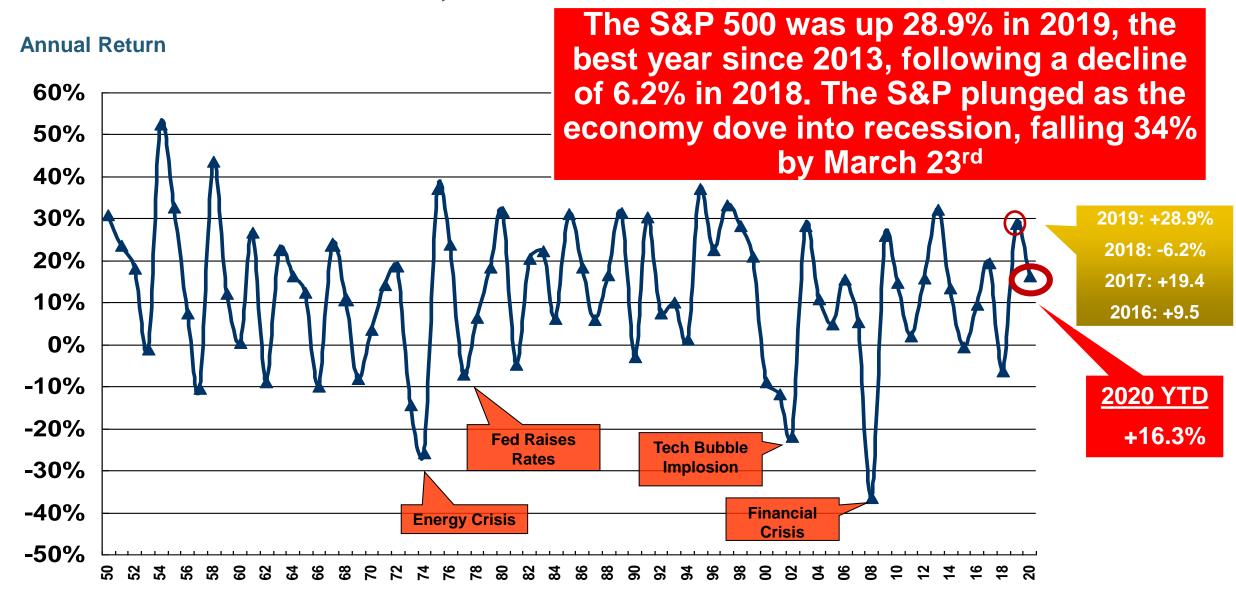
0%

2-Yr Yield

10-Yr Yield

<sup>\*</sup>Monthly, constant maturity, nominal rates, through Feb. 2021.

### **S&P 500 Index Returns, 1950–2020\***



<sup>\*</sup>Through Dec. 31, 2020.

Source: NYU Stern School of Business: http://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~adamodar/New Home Page/datafile/histretSP.html; Center for

Risk and Uncertainty Management, University of South Carolina

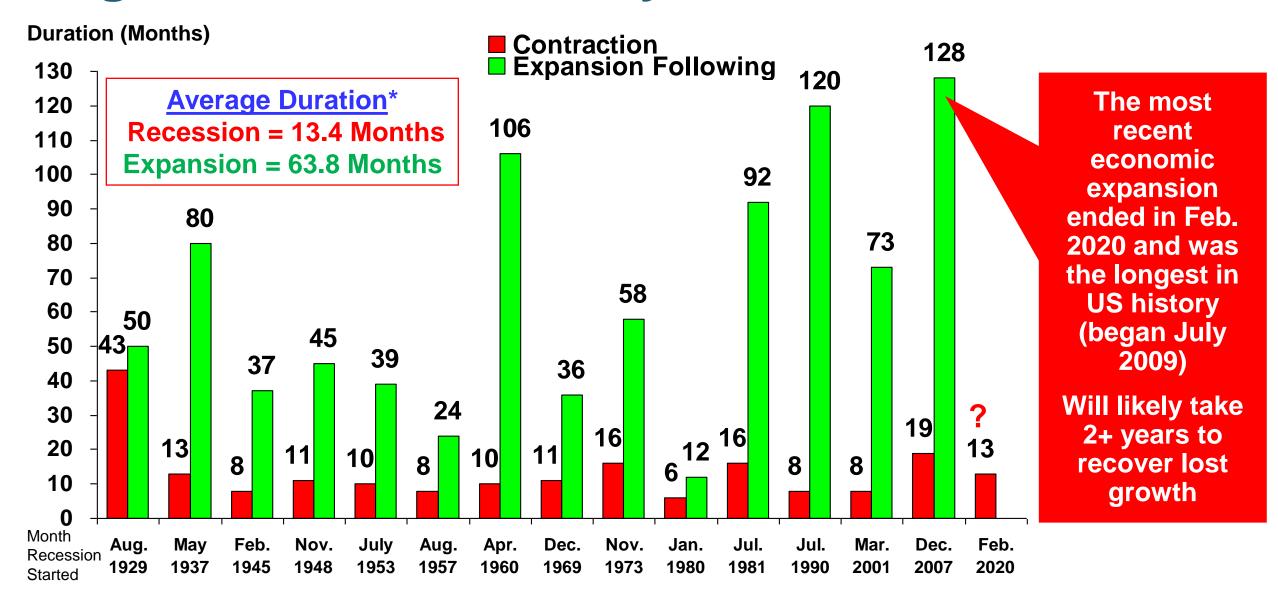
## THE ECONOMY

COVID-19 Pandemic Will Directly and Severely Impact Growth As Exposure Growth Rapidly Shrinks

The Strength of the Economy Has Always Influenced Growth in Insurers' Exposure Base Across Most Lines

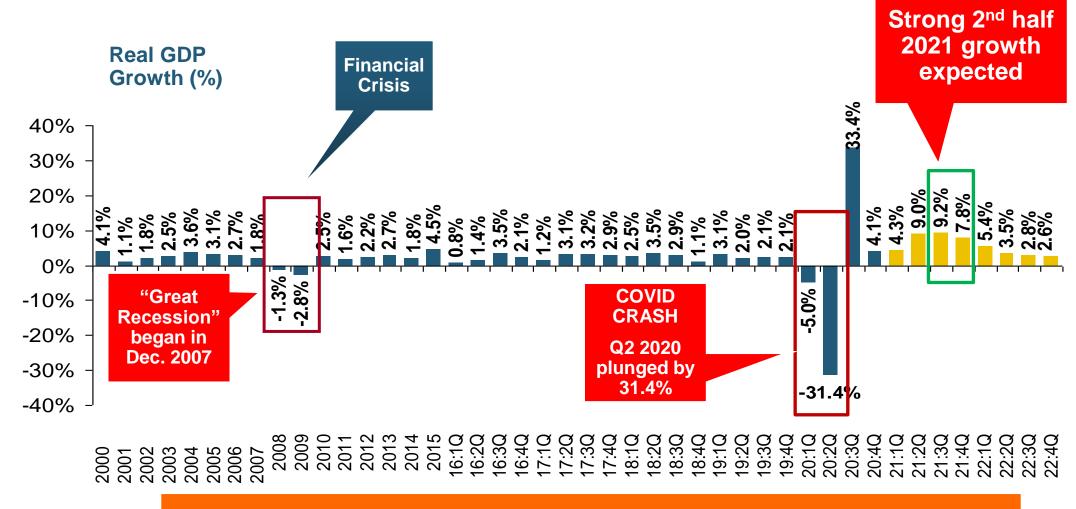
The Links Between the Economy and the P/C Insurance Industry Are Strengthening

## Length of US Business Cycles, 1929-Present\*



<sup>\*</sup> Excludes current COVID-19 recession which began in Feb. 2020 but with an indeterminate end. Sources: National Bureau of Economic Research; Risk and Uncertainty Management Center, University of South Carolina.

#### **US Real GDP Growth\***



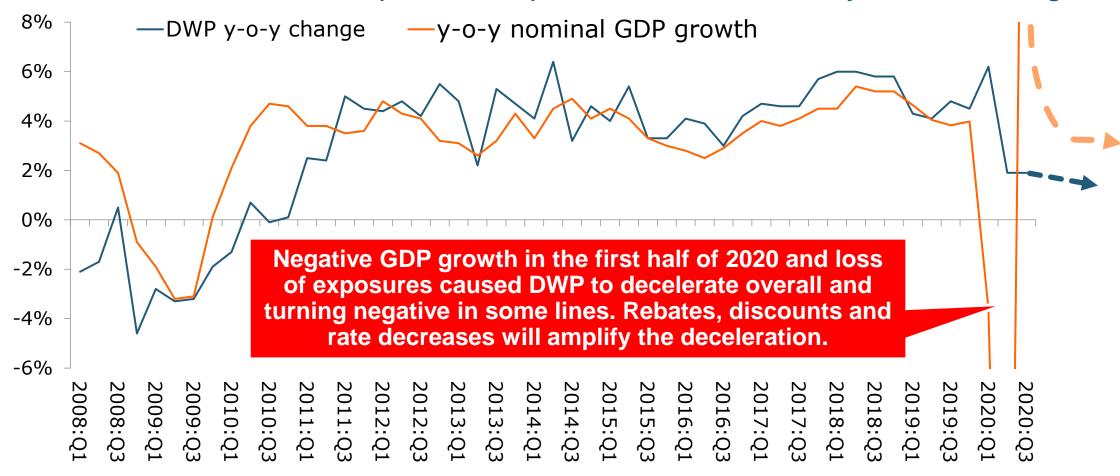
Demand for Insurance Will Increase Materially in H2 2021—Particularly in Economically Sensitive Commercially Lines Such as WC

Source: US Department of Commerce, Wells Fargo Securities 3/21; Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management, University of South Carolina.

<sup>\*</sup> Estimates/Forecasts from Wells Fargo Securities.

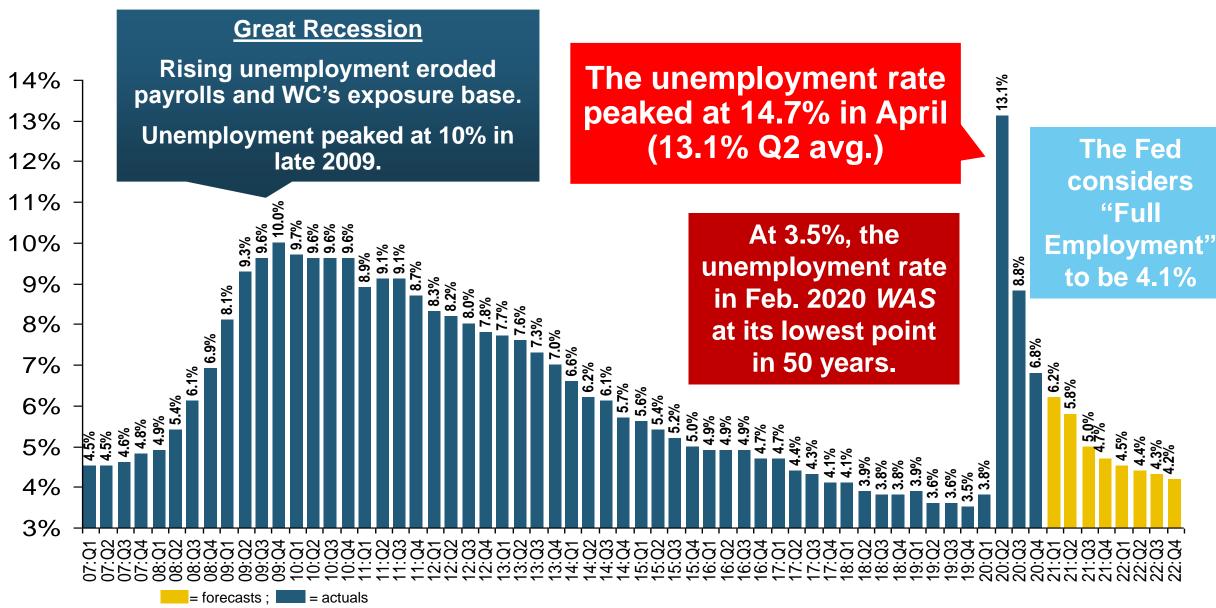
# The Economy Drives P/C Insurance Industry Premiums: 2006:Q1–2020:Q3\*

Direct Premium Growth (All P/C Lines) vs. Nominal GDP: Quarterly Y-o-Y Pct. Change

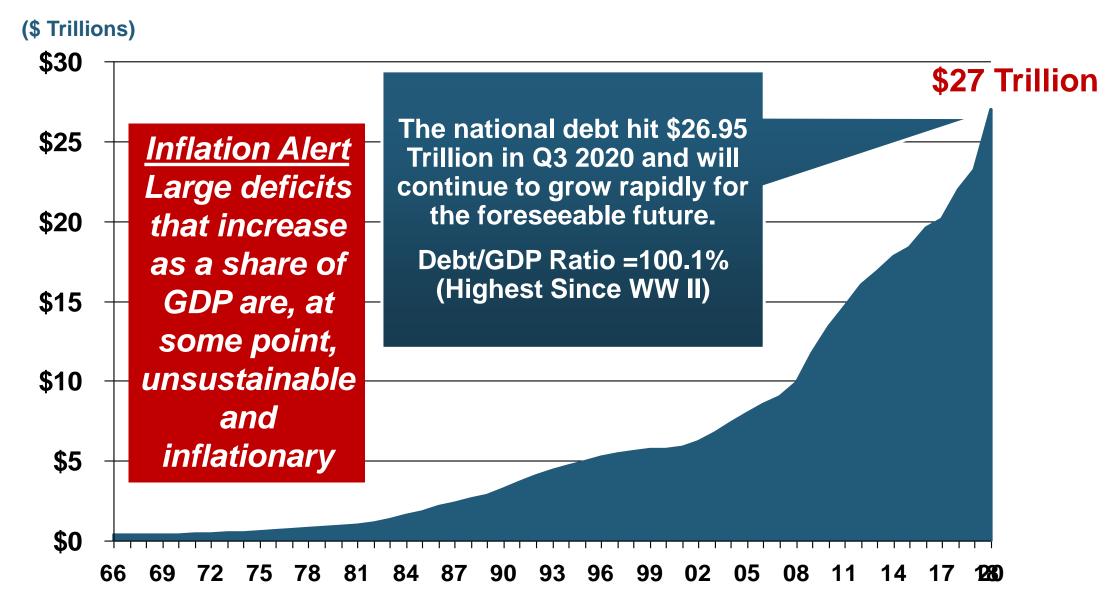


Direct written premiums track nominal GDP fairly tightly over time, suggesting the P/C insurance industry's growth prospects inextricably linked to economic performance.

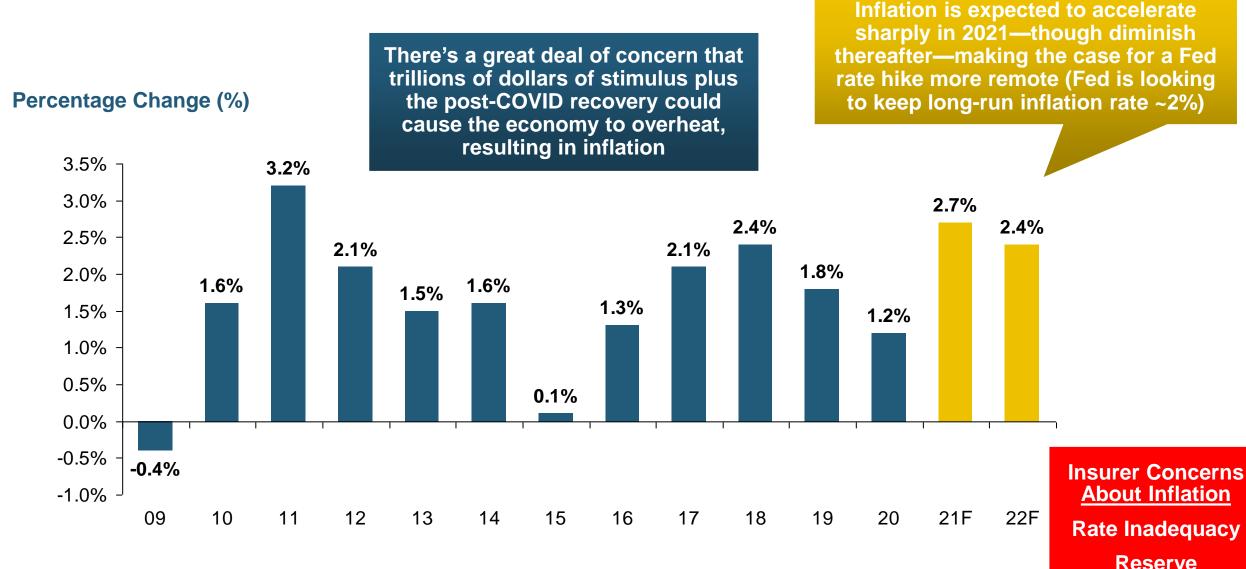
### US Unemployment Rate Forecast: 2007:Q1-2022:Q4



### U.S. National Debt, 1966 – 2020:Q3



### **U.S. Inflation Rate: 2009-2022F\***

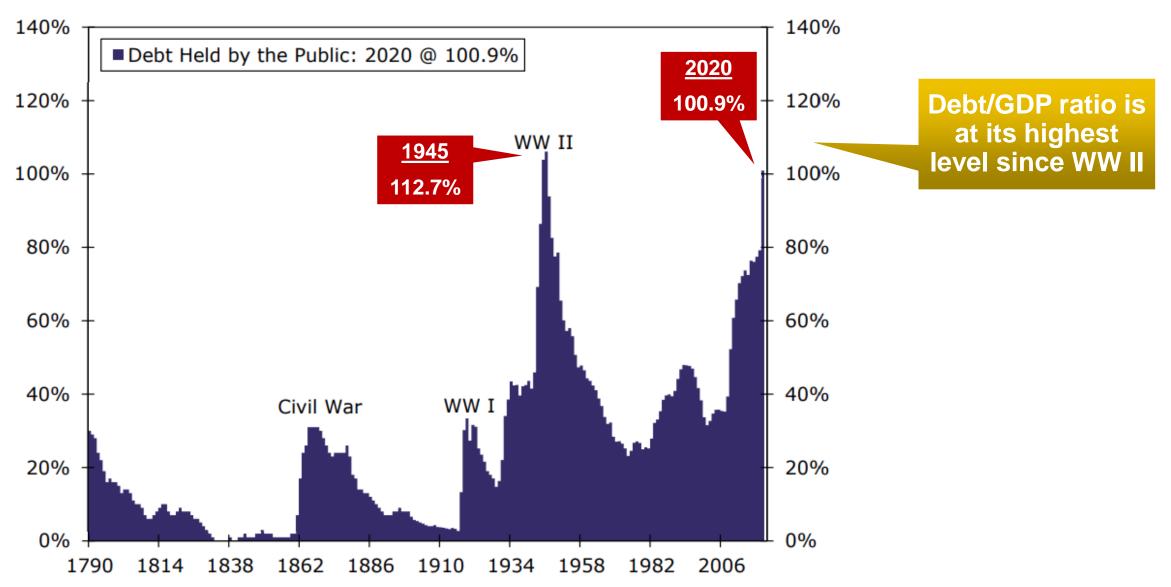


Inadequacy

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Wells Fargo Securities (3/21); USC Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management.

<sup>\*</sup>Annual change in Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

### Debt Held by the Public as a Percent of GDP: 1790 – 2020

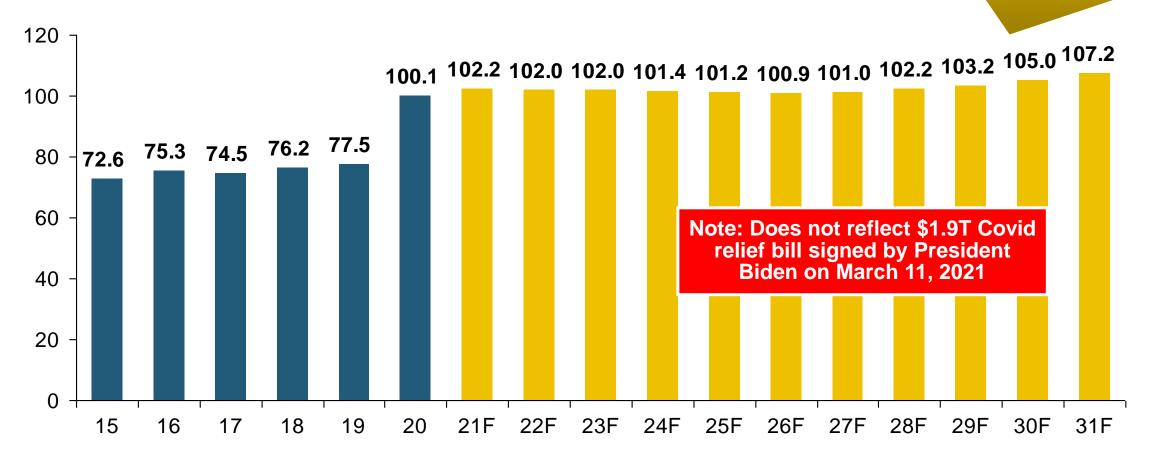


Source: Congressional Budget Office; Wells Fargo Securities (3/21); Risk and Uncertainty Management Center, University of South Carolina.

# Debt Held by the Public as a Percentage of GDP: 2015-2031F\*

US Debt-to-GDP ratio—already at their highest level since WW II—will remain high and even grow due to increasing entitlement obligations (Social Security, Medicare, etc.)

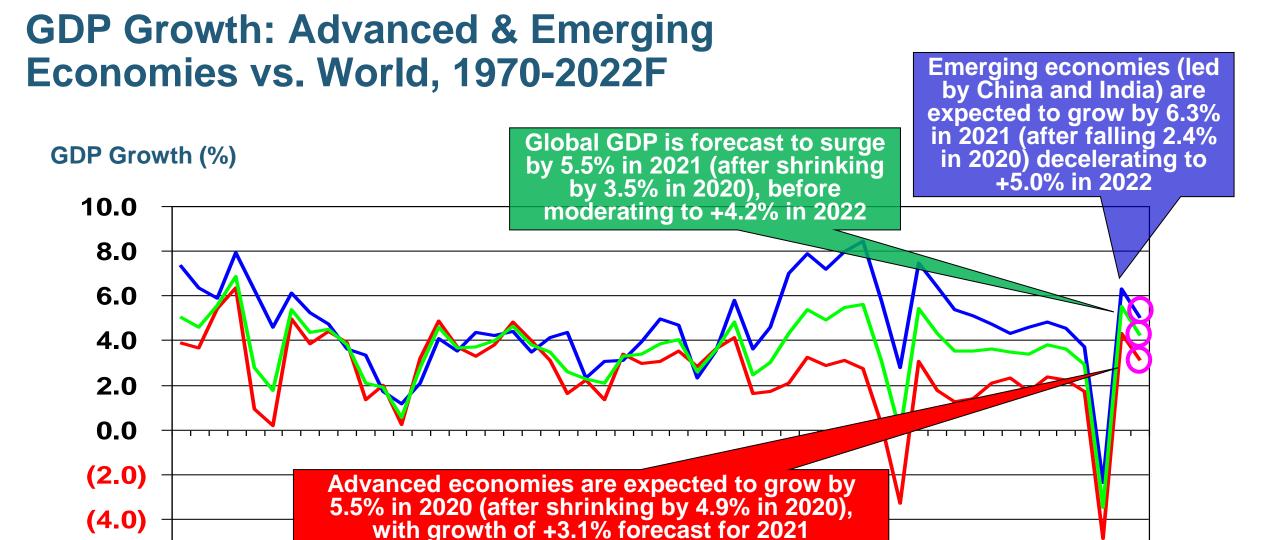




Source: Congressional Budget Office (Feb. 2021); USC Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management.

## Global Economic Outlook

# Geopolitical Instability, Trade Disputes and Fragile Supply Chains Will Present Additional Challenges



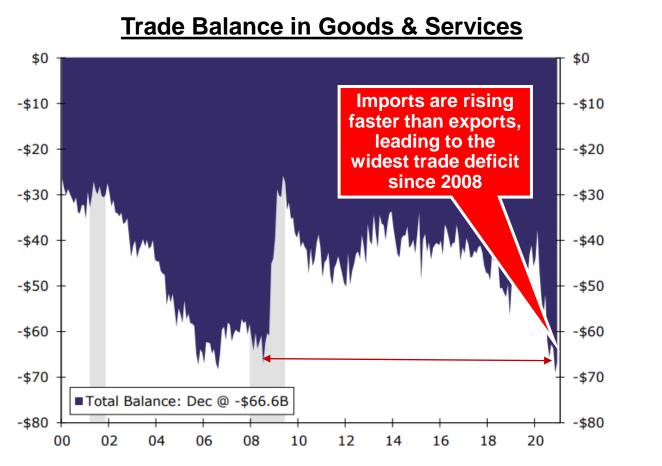
World

Advanced economies — Emerging and developing economies

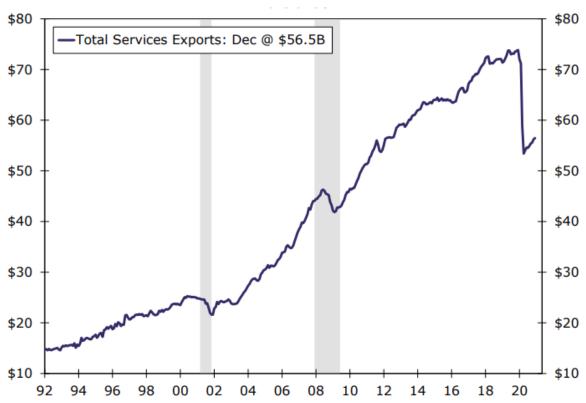
Source: International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook*, Jan. 2021; Univ. of South Carolina, Risk and Uncertainty Management Center.

(6.0)

## Surging Trade Deficit as Trade Flows Begin Slow Recovery





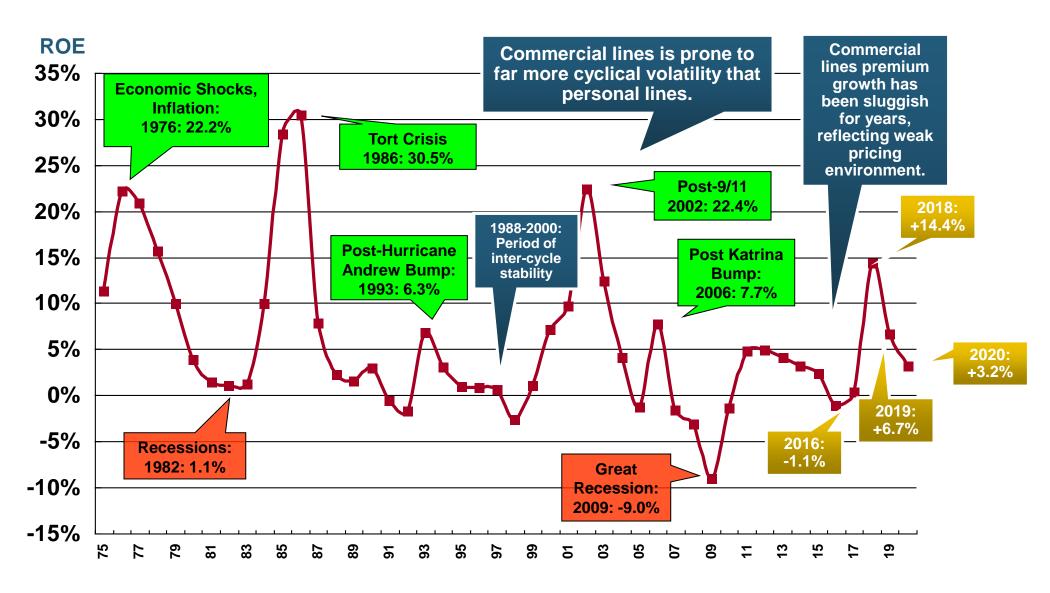


Imports are booming while exports are lagging resulting in a massive expansion of the US trade deficit. US multi-nationals are hurt by relatively weak recoveries with many major trading partners as well as still-simmering trade disputes

# Commercial Lines Growth, Underwriting Performance & Pricing Cyclicality

**Pricing Pressures Are Intensifying** 

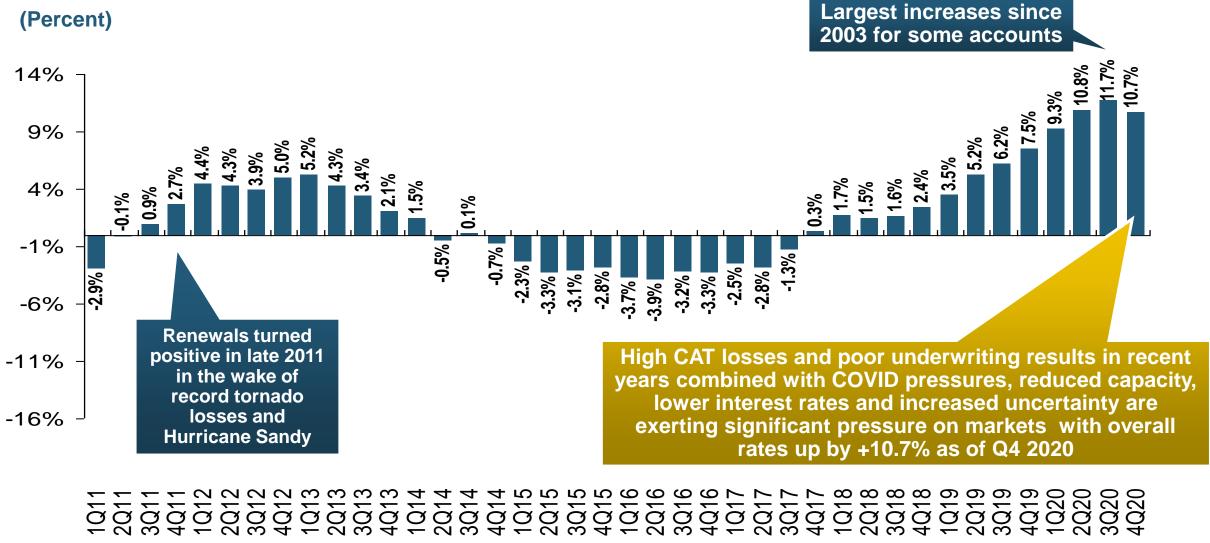
# **Commercial Lines NPW Premium Growth:** 1975 – 2020E



Note: Data include state funds beginning in 1998.

Source: A.M. Best; Insurance Information Institute; Univ. of South Carolina Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management, ISO.

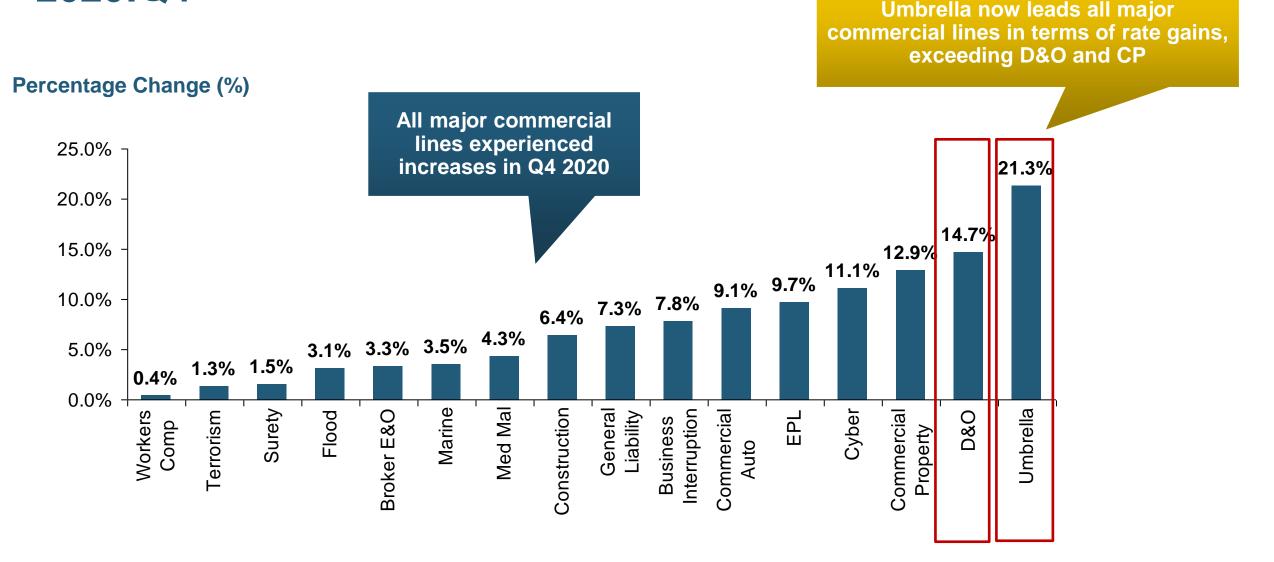
# CIAB: Average Commercial Rate Change, All Lines, 2011:Q1–2020:Q4\*



<sup>\*</sup>Latest available.

Note: CIAB data cited here are based on a survey. Rate changes earned by individual insurers can and do vary, potentially substantially. Source: Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers; Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management, Univ. of South Carolina.

Change in Commercial Rate Renewals, by Line: 2020:Q4

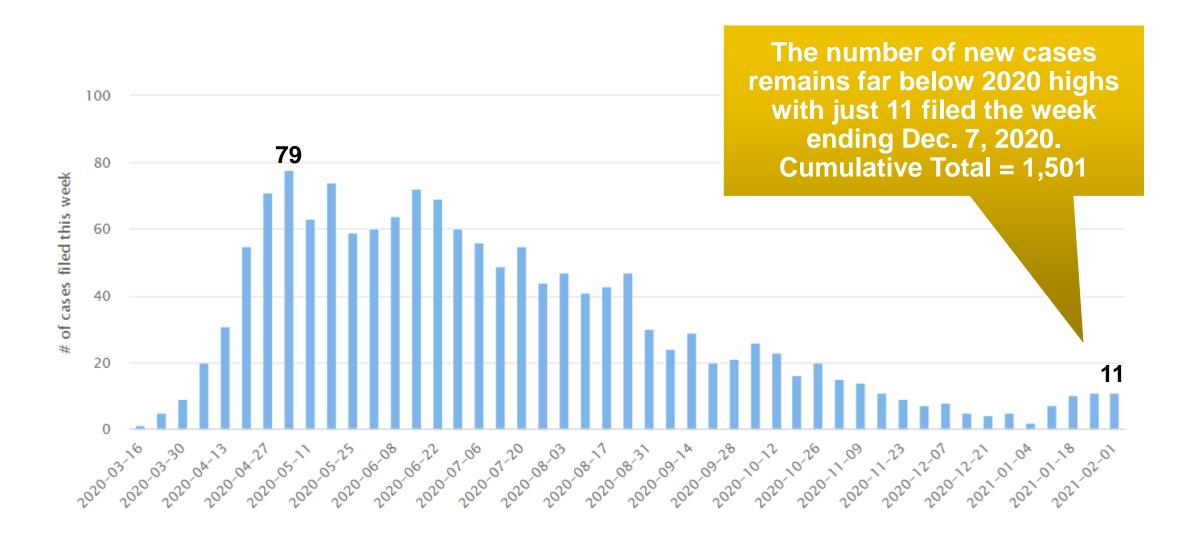


Note: CIAB data cited here are based on a survey. Rate changes earned by individual insurers can and do vary, potentially substantially. Source: Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers; USC Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management.

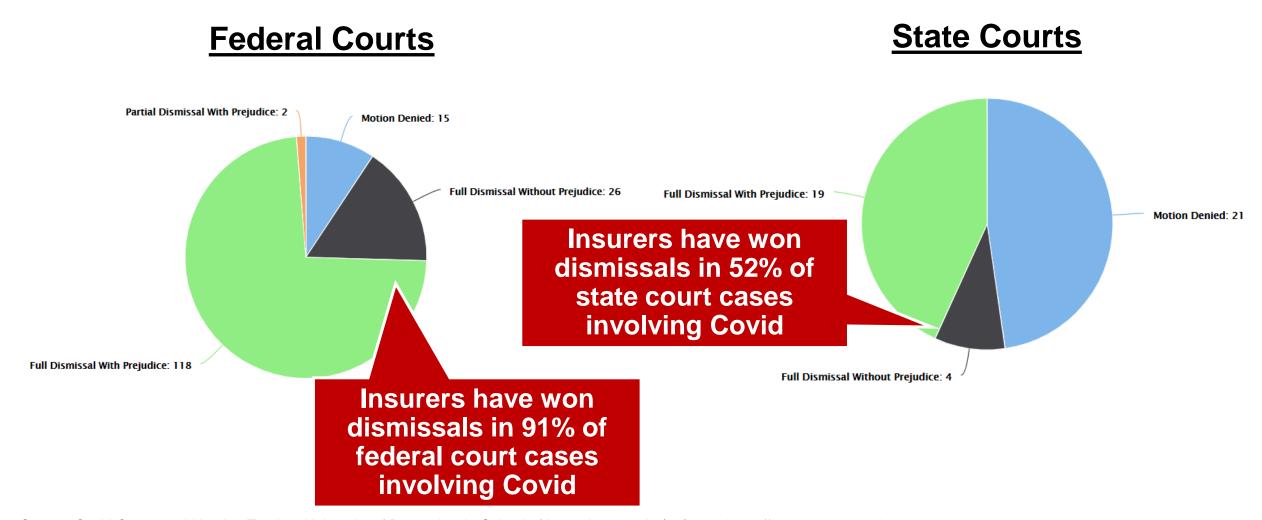
# **COVID-19 Litigation Trends**

# Court Decisions Have Largely Favored Insurers, but Concerns Remain

# Weekly Number of COVID-Related Lawsuits Filed: (Weeks Ending Mar. 16, 2020 to Feb. 1, 2021) [Latest Available]



# COVID Litigation: Merits Rulings on Motions to Dismiss: Federal vs. State Courts (Total through Feb. 1, 2021) [Latest Available]



### **SUMMARY**

- The P/C Insurance Industry Remains Strong, Stable, Sound and Secure
- Worst-Case Scenarios Have, So Far, Been Averted
- An Anticipated Acceleration in the Economic Recovery in the Second Half of 2021 Should Help Restore Most P/C Exposures to Pre-Pandemic Levels by early-2022 or sooner
- Asset Price Volatility Will Persist and Low Interest Rates Will Pressure Investment Earnings for Years
- COVID-19 Exposures Are Manageable with Headline Risk on BI and WC Issues; Overall tort environment remains challenging

# **QUESTIONS?**



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# Thank you for your time and your attention!

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