

### After the Crisis: The P/C Insurance Industry in the Wake of the "Great Recession"

**Midwest Actuarial Forum** Northbrook, IL March 23, 2010

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#### **Presentation Outline**



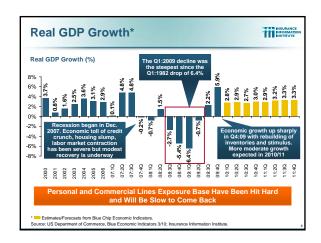
- The Economic Storm: Financial Crisis & Recession
- Crisis-Driven Exposure Issues: Personal & Commercial Lines
  - · Impacts on Claiming Behavior
- Threats and Issues Facing P/C Insurers Through 2015
- Financial Strength & Ratings
  - Key Differences Between Insurer and Bank Performance During Crisis
- Insurance Industry Financial Overview & Outlook
  - ProfitabilityPremium Growth

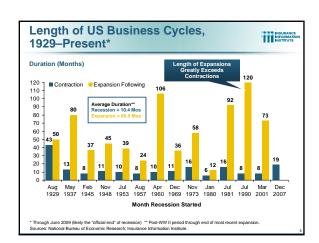
  - Underwriting Performance: Commercial & Personal Lines
     Financial Market Impacts
- Capital & Capacity
- Catastrophe Loss Trends
- Q&A

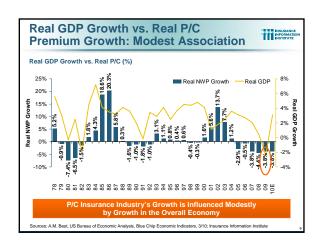


### The Economic Storm

What the Financial Crisis and **Recession Mean for the Industry's Exposure Base, Growth and Profitability** 



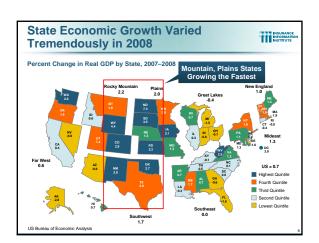


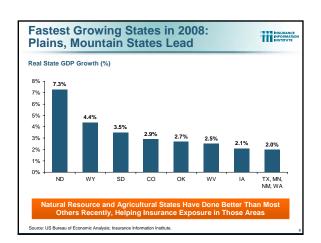


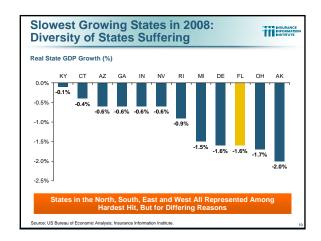


# Regional Differences Will Significantly Impact P/C Markets

Recovery in Some Areas Will Begin Years Ahead of Others and Speed of Recovery Will Differ by Orders of Magnitude



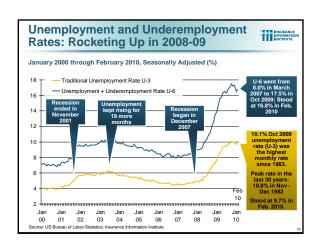


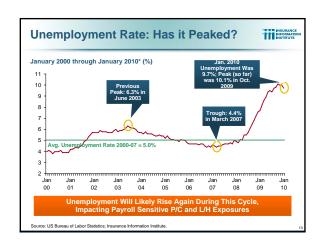


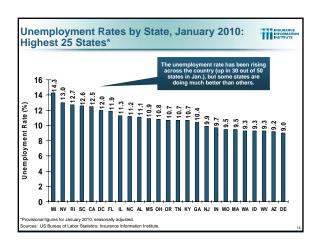


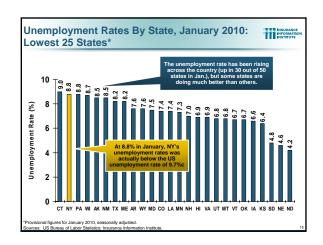
#### **Labor Market Trends**

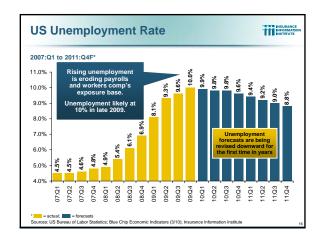
Fast & Furious:
Massive Job Losses Sap the
Economy and Commercial/Personal
Lines Exposure

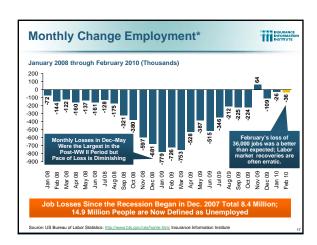


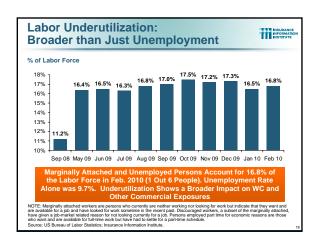


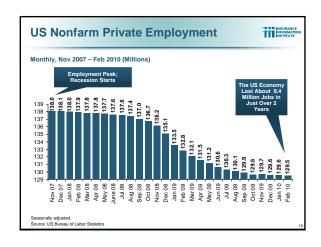


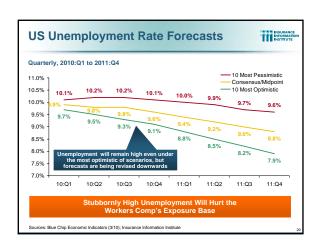


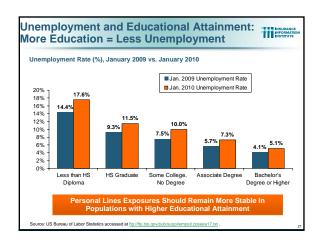


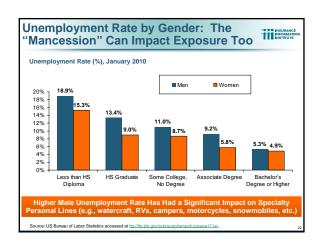


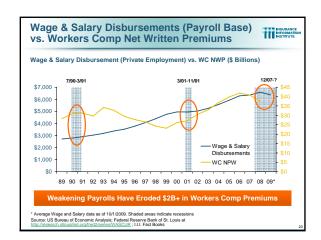


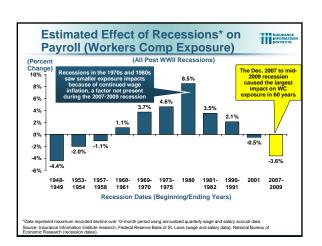


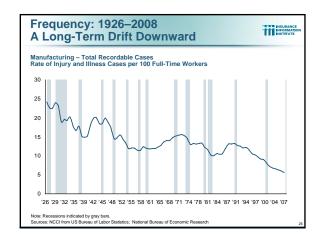


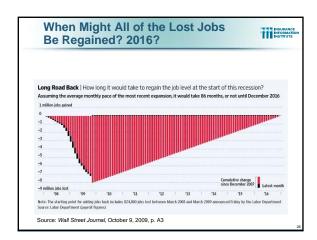








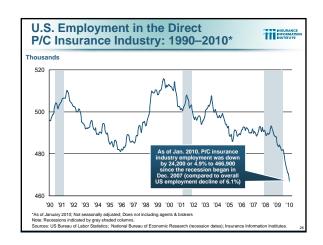


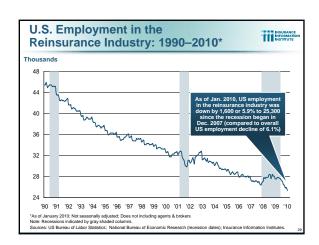


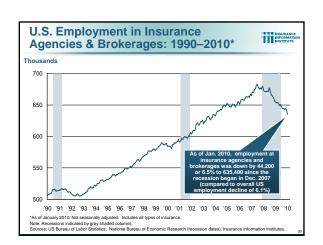


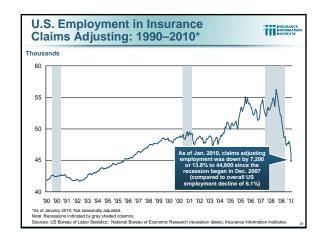
**Insurance Industry Employment Trends** 

Soft Market, Difficult Economy, Outsourcing Have Contributed to Industry's Job Losses





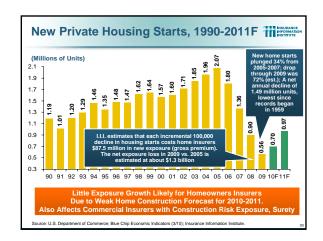


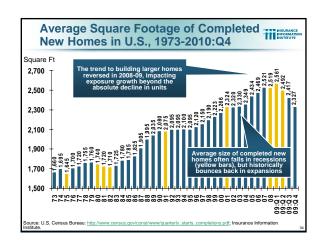


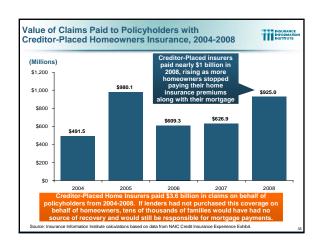


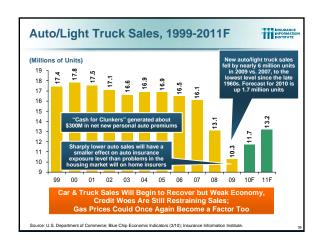
# Crisis-Driven Exposure Drivers

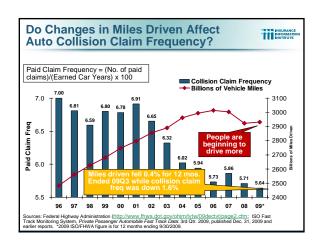
**Economic Obstacles** to Growth in P/C Insurance

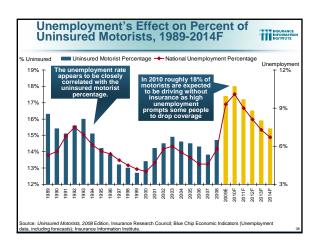


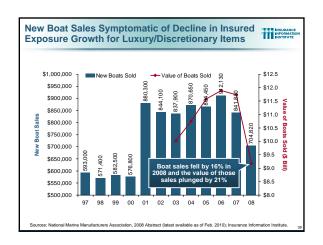


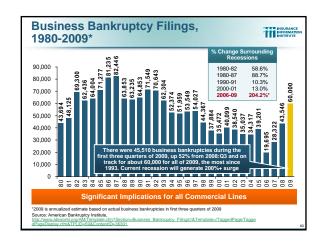


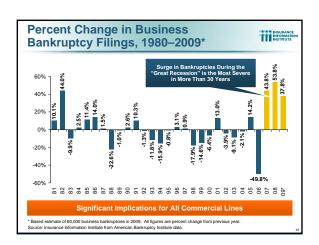


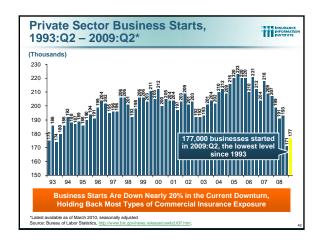


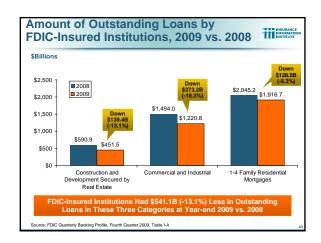


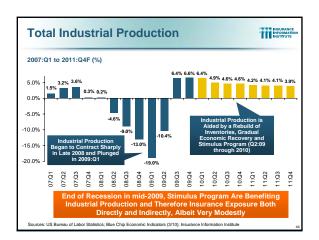








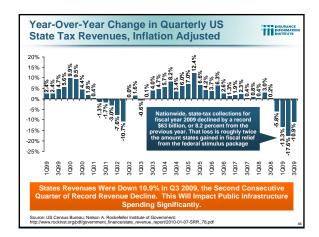






State & Local Government Finances in Dire Straits

Large, Long-Term Cuts Necessary to Align Spending with Shrinking Tax Revenues





### **Green Shoots**

The Recession May Have Ended, but Is it Self-Sustaining?

## Hopeful Signs That the Economic Recovery is Underway

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- Recession appears to have ended, freefall of 2008/09 is over
  - GDP shrinkage has ended; Economy is expanding
  - Pace of job losses is slowing, despite setbacks
  - Major stock market indices well off record lows, anticipating recovery
  - Some signs of retail sales stabilization are evident
- Financial sector is stabilizing
  - Banks are reporting quarterly profits
  - Many banks expanding lending to very credit worthy people and businesses
- Housing sector seems to be bottoming out
  - Home are much more affordable (attracting buyers)
  - Mortgage rates are still low relative to pre-crisis levels (attracting buyers)
  - Freefall in housing starts and existing home sales is ending in
- Inflation and energy prices are under control
- Consumer and business debt loads are shrinking

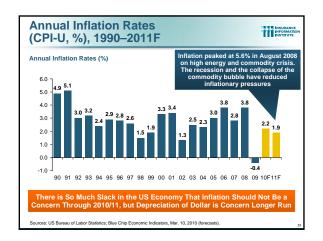
ource: Insurance Information Institut

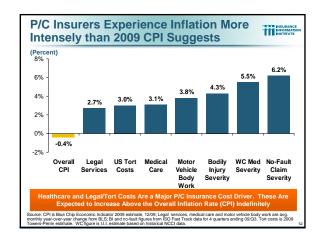


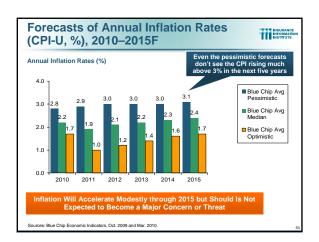


Inflation Trends:
Concerns Over Stimulus Spending
and Monetary Policy

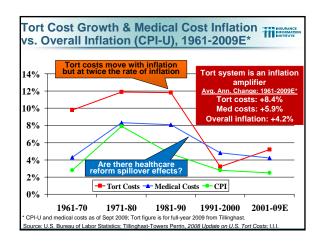
Mounting Pressure on Claim Cost Severities?







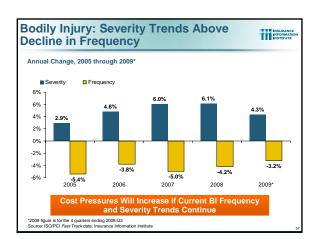
Top Concerns/Risks for Insurers if Inflation Is Reignited	
Concerns	The Federal Reserve Has Flooded Financial System with Cash (Turned on the Printing Presses), the Federal Gov't Has Approved a \$787B Stimulus and the Deficit is Expected to Mushroom to \$1.8 Trillion. All Are Potentially Inflationary.
What are th	ne potential impacts for insurers?
■ What can/s	hould insurers do to protect themselves from the risks of inflation?
Key Risks	From Sustained/Accelerating Inflation
	im Severities claims settlement rises across the board (property and liability)
■ Rate Inade	quacy nadequate due to low trend assumptions arising from use of historical data
■ Reserve In	
	ugh on Retentions ons, deductibles burned through more quickly
	ce Penetration/Exhaustion costs → risks burn through their retentions more quickly, tapping into reinsurance

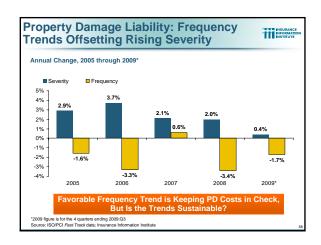


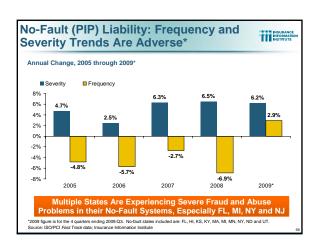


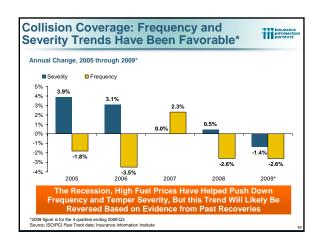
# Claim Trends in Auto Insurance

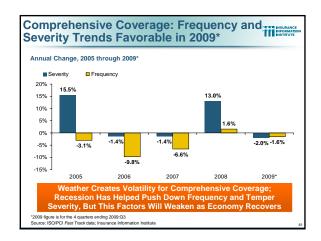
Rising Costs Held in Check by Falling Frequency:
Can That Pattern Be Sustained?







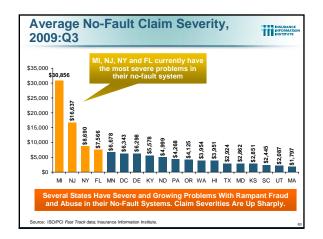


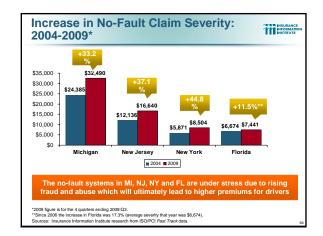




# Fraud & Abuse in Private Passenger Auto Insurance

Skyrocketing No-Fault (PIP) Claim Costs Are a Major Concern in Several States







## **Key Threats Facing Insurers Amid Financial Crisis**

Challenges for the Next 5-8 Years

## Important Issues & Threats Facing Insurers: 2010–2015

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#### Erosion of Capital

- Losses were larger and occurred more rapidly than was commonly understood or presumed possible
- Max surplus loss at 3/31/09 was 16%=\$85B from 9/30/07 peak
- P/C policyholder surplus could have been much larger
- Some insurers propped up results by reserve releases
- Decline in PHS of 1999–2002 was 15% over 3 years and was entirely made up and them some in 2003. Recent decline was ~16% in 5 quarters
- During the opening years of the Great Depression (1929–1933) PHS fell 37%, Assets fell 28% and Net Written Premiums fell by 35%. It took until 1939–40 before these key measures returned to their 1929 peaks

Bottom Line: Capital and Assets Fall Faster and Farther Than Many Believed Possible. It Will Take Until 2010 to Return to the 2007 Peaks (Without Market Relapse)

Source: Insurance Information Institute.

## **Important Issues & Threats** INSURANCE INFORMATION INSTITUTE Facing Insurers: 2010–2015 Reloading Capital After "Capital Event" Continued asset price erosion coupled with major "capital event" would have lead to shortage of capital among *some* companies Possible Consequences: Insolvencies, forced mergers, calls for gov't aid, requests to relax capital requirements P/C insurers have come to assume that large amounts of capital can be raised quickly and cheaply after major events (post-9/11, Katrina) This assumption was incorrect during and immediately after the crisis Cost of capital can rise sharply (relative "risk-free" rates), reflecting both scarcity, increasing volatility and heightened investor risk aversion **Important Issues & Threats** INSURANCE INFORMATION INSTITUTE Facing Insurers: 2010–2015 Long-Term Reduction in Investment Earnings Low interest rates, risk aversion toward equities and many categories of fixed income securities lock in a multi-year trajectory toward ever lower investment gains Fed actions in Treasury markets keep yields low Many insurers have not adjusted to this new investment paradigm of a sustained period of low investment gains ■ Regulators will not readily accept it; many will reject it Implication 1: Industry must be prepared to operate in environment with investment earnings accounting for a smaller fraction of profits Implication 2: Implies underwriting discipline of a magnitude not witnessed in this industry in more than 30 years. Yet to manifest itself. Lessons from the period 1920–1975 need to be relearned **Important Issues & Threats** INSURANCE INFORMATIO INSTITUTE Facing Insurers: 2010–2??? Regulatory Overreach

### Principle danger is that P/C insurers get swept into vast federal regulatory overhaul and subjected to inappropriate, duplicative and costly regulation (Dual Regulation) Systemic Risk Regulator (Too Big To Fail) Is any insurer systemically important? Federal Insurance Office Creation Within Treasury? Eventual "mission creep"?; Activist director? Consumer Financial Protection Agency Will it be limited to banks/creditors Federal Trade Commission: All Lines Study Authority? McCarran-Ferguson Rollback Will it be limited to Health/Med Mal lines?

OFC/State Regulation Debate Lingers ■ Taxation/Offshore Domiciles

## Federal Insurance Office: What Would it Do?





#### **Duties of the Federal Insurance Office**

- Establishes office within US Treasury headed by a Director appointed by Treasury Secretary, and charged with:
  - 1. Monitor the insurance industry to gain expertise
  - Identify regulatory gaps that could contribute to a systemic crisis in the insurance industry or the U.S. financial system
  - Recommend to the federal authority having systemic risk responsibility the
    designation of certain insurers (and their affiliates) for heightened prudential
    standards (although recognition of this role of the FIO is not evident in existing
    systemic risk regulation proposals)
  - 4. Assist in the administration of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program

Source: Federal Insurance Office Act of 2009 (HR 2609); Adapted from summary by Jason Schupp at Zurich American Insurance Company, Federal Regulation Reform Series, Dec. 6, 2009.

## Federal Insurance Office: What Would it Do?





#### **Duties of the Federal Insurance Office (continued)**

- 5. Coordinate Federal efforts and establish Federal policy on prudential aspects of international insurance matters (including representation of the U.S. before the International Association of Insurance Supervisors and assisting the Secretary of Treasury in the negotiation of international agreements relating to prudential matters
- Treasury in the negotiation of international agreements relating to prudential matters)
  6. Consult with the States on national matters of importance to insurance and international insurance matters relating to prudential regulation
- Determine whether state insurance matters are preempted by international insurance agreements relating to prudential matters
- Advise the Secretary of Treasury on major domestic and prudential international matters of importance
- Consult with state insurance commissioners, both individually and collectively, as appropriate

Source: Federal Insurance Office Act of 2009 (HR 2609); Adapted from summary by Jason Schupp at Zurich American Insurance Company, Federal Regulation Reform Series, Dec. 6, 2009.

## Systemic Risk: Oversight & Resolution Authority





#### Issues Related to Systemic Risk & Resolution Authority

- Federal Authority created to oversee systemic risk of large financial holding companies (e.g., Federal Reserve or other existing/new agency) [a.k.a. TOO BIG TOO FAIL]
  - P/C insurers are working to "carve out" and exception to systemic risk oversight (arguing they were not the source/cause of problems)
  - Without such an exception, p/c insurers could be subject to assessments (e.g., Financial Responsibility Tax) for failed noninsurance financial institutions or could be forced to repay funds provided for government assistance to firms due to problems outside of their p/c insurance operations
- European Regulators Believe Large (Re)Insurers Should Be Included Under the Definition of Systemically Important Firms
  - ECB named 8 insurers/reinsurers as systemically important

Source: Federal Insurance Office Act of 2009 (HR 2609); Adapted from summary by Jason Schupp at Zurich American Insurance Company, Federal Regulation Reform Series, Dec. 6, 2009.

## Systemic Risk: Oversight & Resolution Authority

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How Current Systemic Risk Proposal Could Affect Insurers

- Bank holding companies with more than \$50 billion in assets would be subject to an assessment (Financial Responsibility Tax) in order to build a \$50 billion fund to wind down (resolve) large, insolvent financial institutions
  - > This first group could include some insurers that own banks
- If the \$50 billion resolution fund is exhausted, then other non-bank financial institutions (including insurers, even those without banks) with more that \$50 billion in consolidated assets would be assessed to make up any shortfall
- Bottom Line: P/C insurers do not object to the concept of systemic risk, but feel that the focus on size alone is inappropriate given the roots of the financial crisis and the fact that p/c insurers were not the cause

Source: Insurance Information Institute

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## Systemic Risk: Oversight & Resolution Authority





Rational for Excluding P/C Insurers from Systemic Regulation

- The insurance business model (encompassing both insurers and reinsurers) has specific features that make it a source of stability within the financial system
  - Up-front premiums provide strong operating cash flow
  - Insurance policies generally represent longer-term liabilities with little or no ability for the policy holder to demand immediate payments (no "run" on insurers)
  - The few insurers that experienced serious problems were impacted not by their insurance business but by quasi-banking activities. This includes AIG and "monoline" insurers provided financial guarantees and engaged in CDS writing and trading
- Core Activities of Insurers Have No Systemic Relevance
  - Only 2 non-core activities seem to have relevance assuming they are conducted on a huge scale using poor risk management control
    - Derivatives trading on non-insurance balance sheets
  - > Mismanagement of short-term funding from commercial paper or securities lending

Source: Geneva Association, Systemic Risk in Insurance, March 2010.



Critical Differences Between P/C Insurers and Banks

Superior Risk Management Model and Low Leverage Make a Big Difference

-

#### **How Insurance Industry Stability Has Benefitted Consumers**

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#### **Bottom Line:**

- Insurance markets unlike banking are operating normally
- The basic function of insurance the orderly transfer of risk from client to insurer - continues uninterrupted
- This means that insurers continue to:
  - Pay claims (whereas 198 banks have gone under as of 3/12/10)
  - Renew existing policies (banks are reducing and eliminating lines)
  - Write new policies (banks are turning away people and businesses who want or need to borrow)
  - Develop new products (banks are scaling back the products they offer)
  - \* Compete intensively (banks are consolidating, reducing consumer choice)

#### Reasons Why P/C Insurers Have Fewer **Problems Than Banks**

#### A Superior Risk Management Model

- Emphasis on Underwriting
   Matching of risk to price (via experience and modeling)
   Limiting of potential loss exposure
   Some banks sought to maximize volume and fees and disregarded risk
- Strong Relationship Between Underwriting and Risk Bearing

- Sanks and investment banks package up and securitize, severing the link between risk underwriting and risk bearing, with (predictably) disastrous consequences straightforward moral hazard problem from Econ 101
- Low Leverage
  - Insurers do not rely on borrowed money to underwrite insurance or pay claims → There is no credit or liquidity crisis in the insurance industry
- Conservative Investment Philosophy
   High quality portfolio that is relatively less volatile and more liquid ■ Comprehensive Regulation of Insurance Operations
- The business of insurance remained comprehensively regulated whereas a separate banking system had evolved largely outside the auspices and understanding of regulators (e.g., hedge funds, private equity, complex securitized instruments, credit derivatives CDS's)
- Greater Transparency
   Insurance companies are an open book to regulators and the public Source: Insurance Information Institute

#### **Important Issues & Threats** Facing Insurers: 2010–2015

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#### **Emerging Tort Threat**

- No tort reform (or protection of recent reforms) is forthcoming from the current Congress or Administration
- Erosion of recent reforms is a certainty (already happening)
- Innumerable legislative initiatives will create opportunities to undermine existing reforms and develop new theories and channels of liability
- Torts twice the overall rate of inflation
- Influence personal and commercial lines, esp. auto liability
- Historically *extremely* costly to p/c insurance industry
- Leads to reserve deficiency, rate pressure

Bottom Line: Tort "crisis" is on the horizon and will be recognized as such by 2012–2014

Source: Insurance Information Institute

### Terrorism: Insurance Concerns Resurface TI RESTRICT Reasons Why Concerns Are Mounting in 2010

- Perception (Reality) that U.S. vulnerability is rising
- Thwarted Christmas Day attack by "underwear bomber" And new bin Laden tape claiming al Qaeda is responsible
- Foiled NYC Subway Bomber Plot (Zazi case)
- Trials of Guantanamo 9/11 suspects in Manhattan Court (?)
- U.K. in January Raised Terror Alert Status to 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Level
- Increased anti-terror efforts, including full-body scans
- Effort by government to appear more vigilant, prepared
- Rise of groups such al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
- U.S. military surge in Afghanistan operations
- Most buyers, producers have not thought about coverage issues recently
- Obama Administration's Intent to Reduce Support for TRIA

#### **Obama Administration Proposal to Scale Back Terrorism Risk Insurance Program**

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#### Administration's Budget Proposal for FY 2011:

- Includes proposal to scale back federal support for terrorism risk
- Proposal projects savings of \$249 million from 2011-2020
- Administration's justification is that this would "encourage the private sector to better mitigate terrorism risk through other means, such as developing alternative reinsurance options and building safer buildings

#### (ey Concerns

Among Industry Observers Over Proposed Reduction in Federal Support

- Suggestion of changes to law would have detrimental effect on availability and affordability of terrorism insurance
- A 2009 Aon study estimated some 70-80 percent of the commercial property insurance market would revert to absolute exclusions for terrorism, if TRIA is changed.

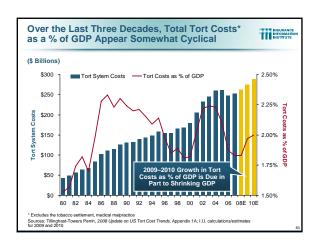
Source: Budget of the U.S. Government Fiscal Year 2011

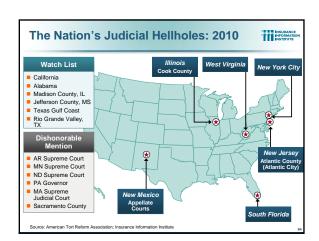
#### Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Faces Reduced Support Under 2011 Proposed Federal Budget \$400 \$321 \$300 \$193 \$206 \$200 \$147 \$100 \$0 (\$100) (\$200) -2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 Sources: U.S. federal budget for FY 2011 as proposed in February 2010; Insurance Information Insti



# Shifting Legal Liability & Tort Environment

# Is the Tort Pendulum Swinging Against Insurers?

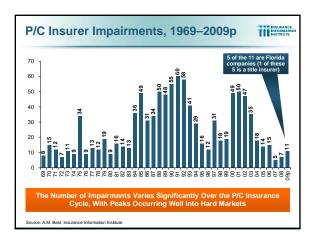


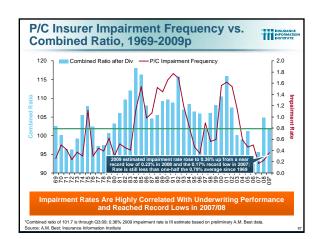


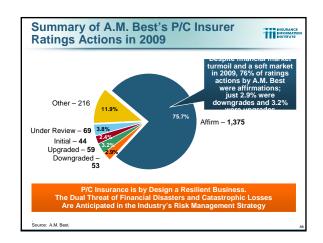


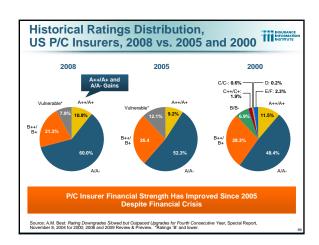
### **Financial Strength & Ratings**

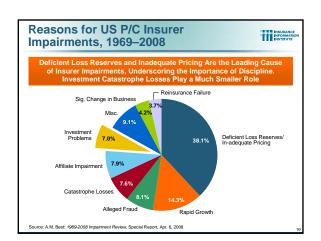
# Industry Has Weathered the Storms Well













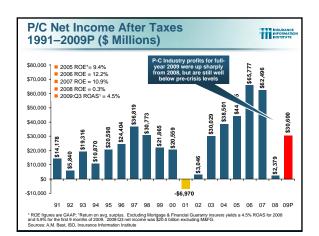
# P/C Insurance Financial Performance

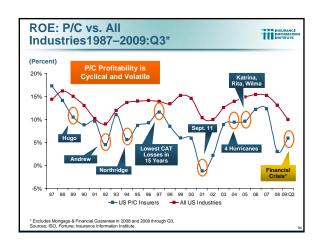
A Resilient Industry in Challenging Times

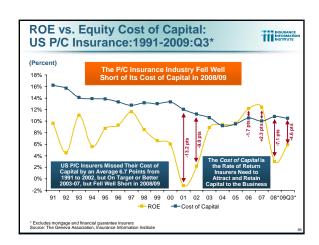


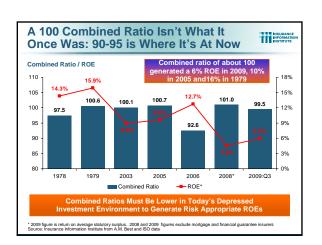
### **Profitability**

**Historically Volatile** 



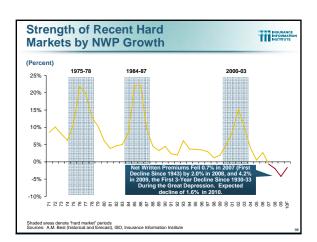


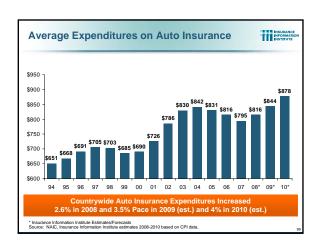


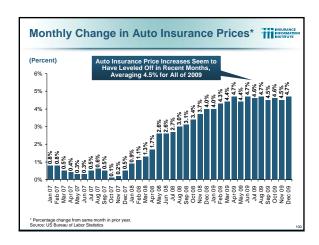


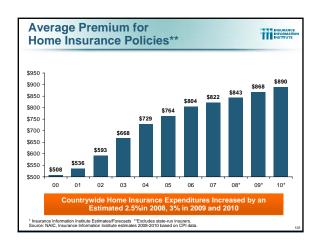


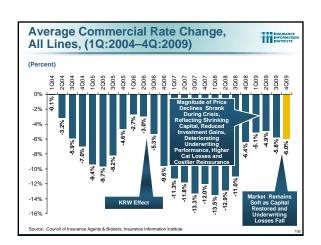
P/C Premium Growth
Primarily Driven by the
Industry's Underwriting Cycle,
Not the Economy

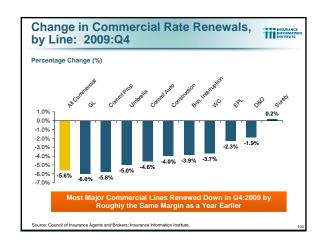


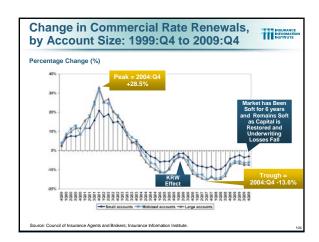


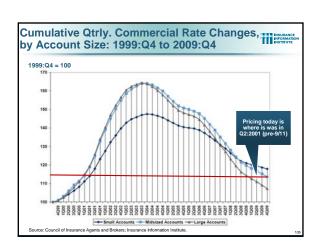








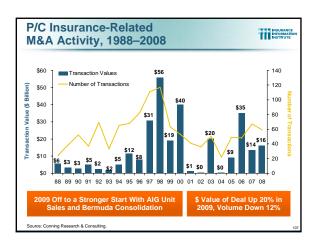






### **Merger & Acquisition**

## Barriers to Consolidation Will Diminish in 2010

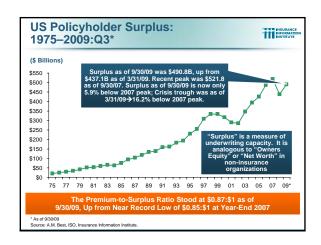


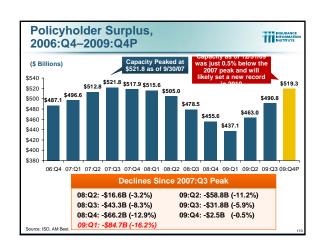


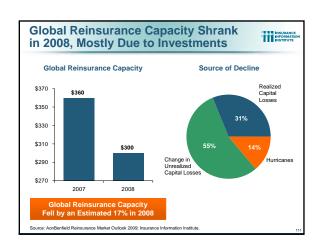
Capital/Policyholder Surplus (US)

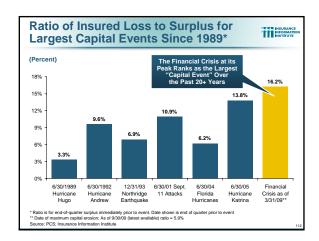
Shrinkage, but Not Enough to Trigger Hard Market

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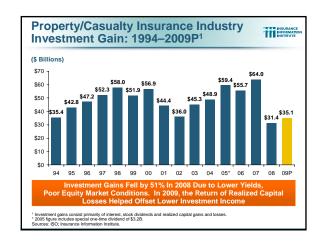


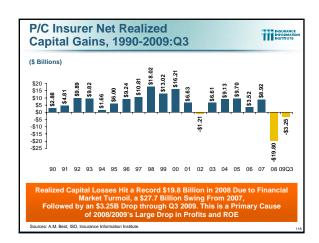


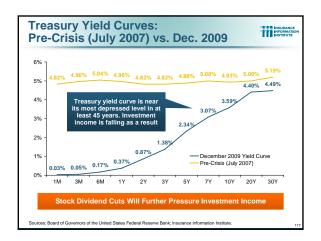


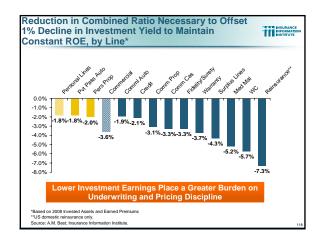
## **Investment Performance**

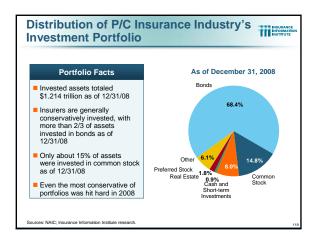
Investments Are a Principle Source of Declining Profitability





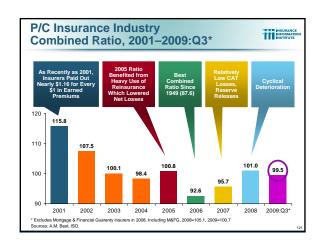


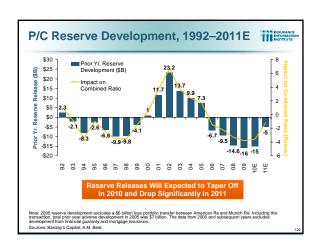


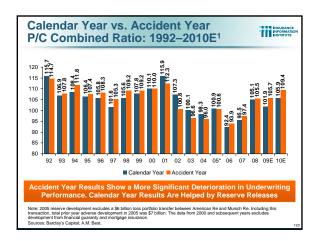


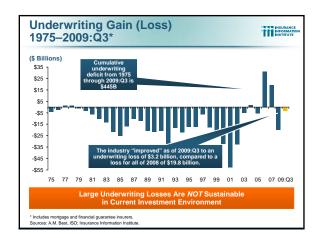


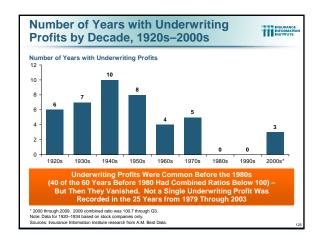
Underwriting Trends –
Financial Crisis Does Not
Directly Impact Underwriting
Performance: Cycle, Catastrophes
Were 2008's Drivers





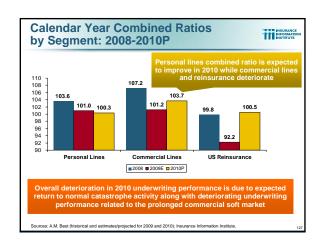


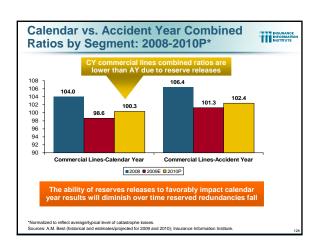


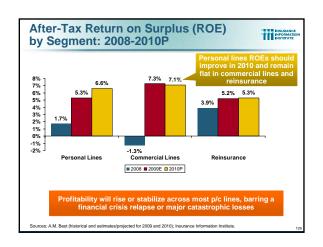


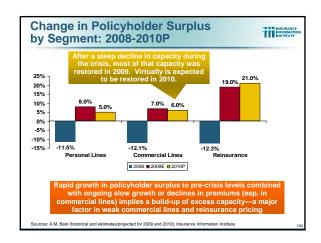


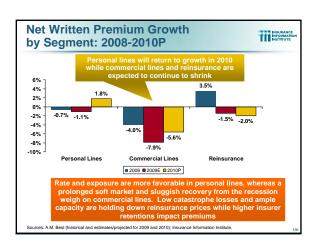
Performance by Segment: Commercial/Personal Lines & Reinsurance

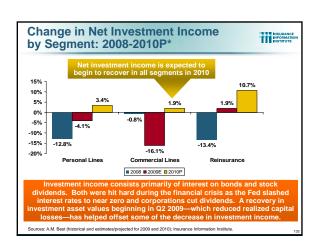


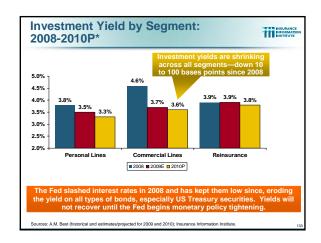


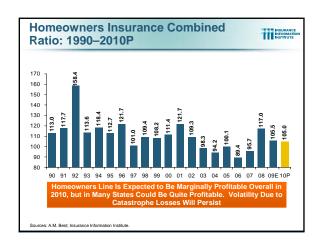


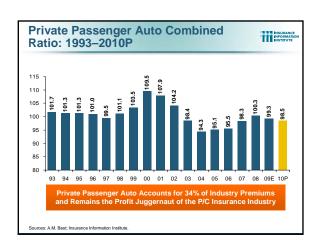


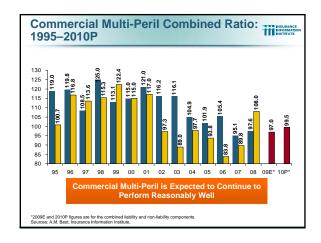


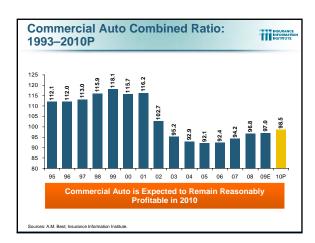


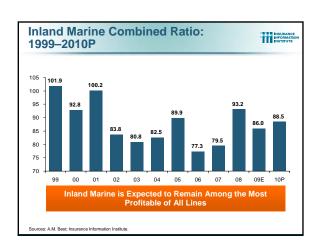


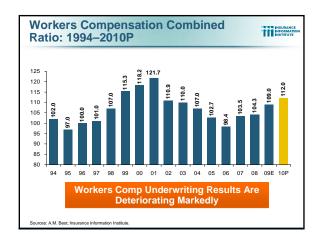






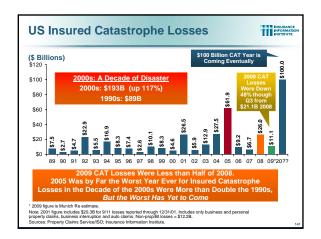


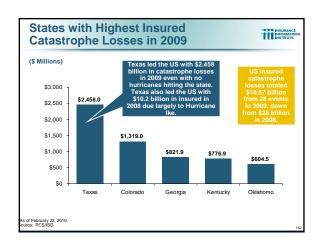


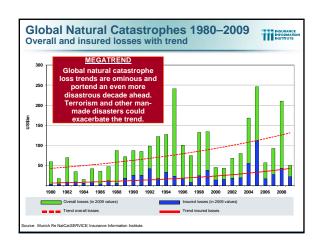




Catastrophic Loss –
Catastrophe Losses Trends
Are Trending Adversely







As of January 2010 Tropical Cyclones	Fatalities 8	Estimated Overall Losses (US \$m) Minor	Estimated Insured Losses (US \$m)	
			Minor	
Severe Thunderstorms	21	13,710	9,625 <sup>†</sup>	
Winter Storms	70	1,600	770 <sup>†</sup>	2009 was
Wildfires	6	280	185	year for thundersto losses
Floods	22	1,600	232	<u> </u>

billion economic loss and/or 50+ fatalities (as of Jan. 2010)					
Date	Event	Est. Economic Losses (US \$m)	Estimated Insured Losses (US \$m)		
January 26 - 28	Winter Storm	1,100	565 <sup>†</sup>		
February 10 - 13	Thunderstorms	2,500	1,350 <sup>†</sup>		
March 25 - 26	Thunderstorms	1,500	995 <sup>†</sup>		
March – April	Flood	1,000	75		
April 9 -11	Thunderstorms	1,700	1,150 <sup>†</sup>		
June 10 -18	Thunderstorms	2,000	1,100†		
July 20 -21	Thunderstorms	1,000	800 <sup>†</sup>		

