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# **Time Horizons in Risk Assessment**

**CAS 2008 Annual Meeting  
Seattle, WA  
November 16-19, 2008**

**Michael Wacek**

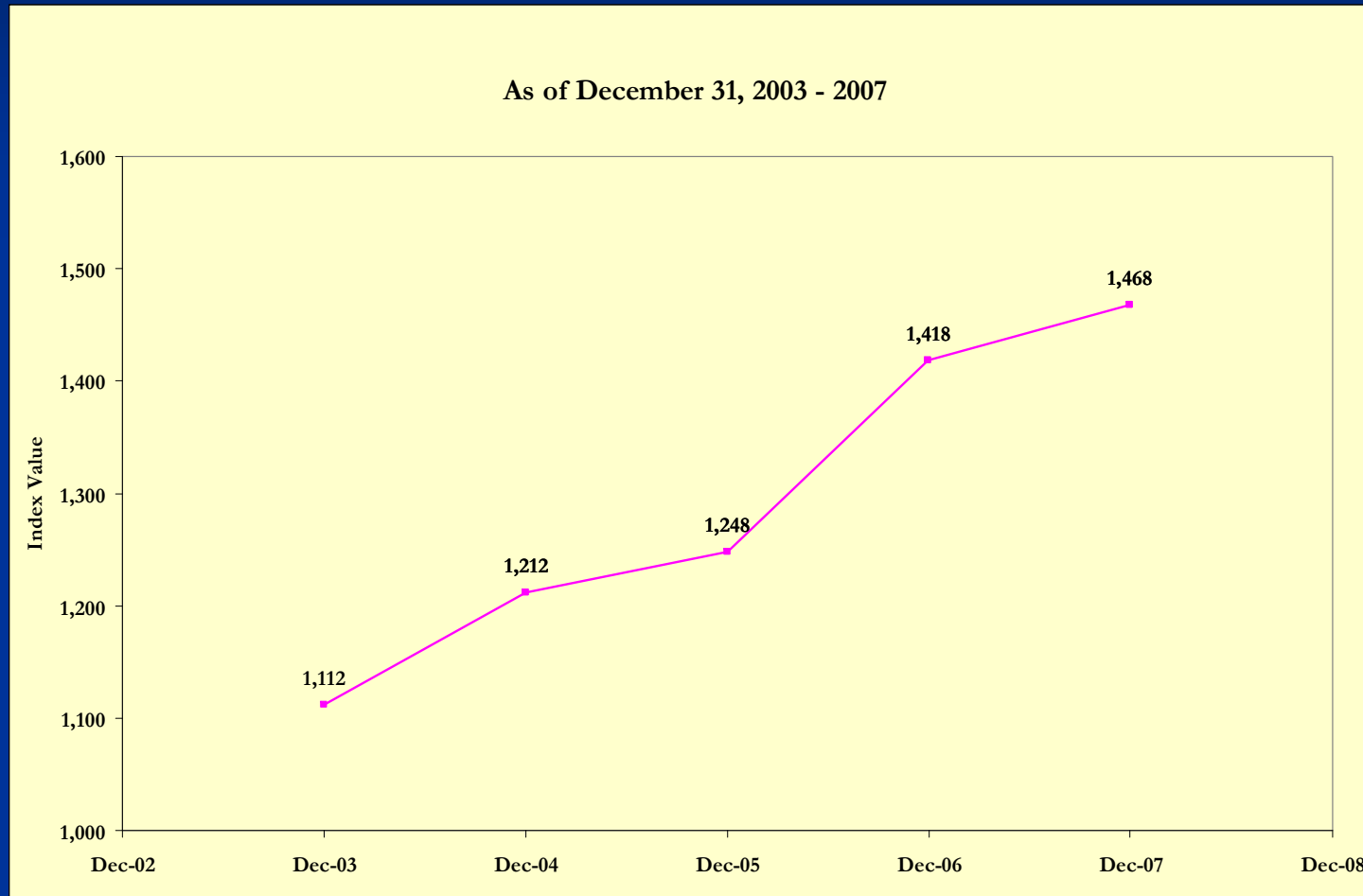
# Time Dependency of Financial Variables

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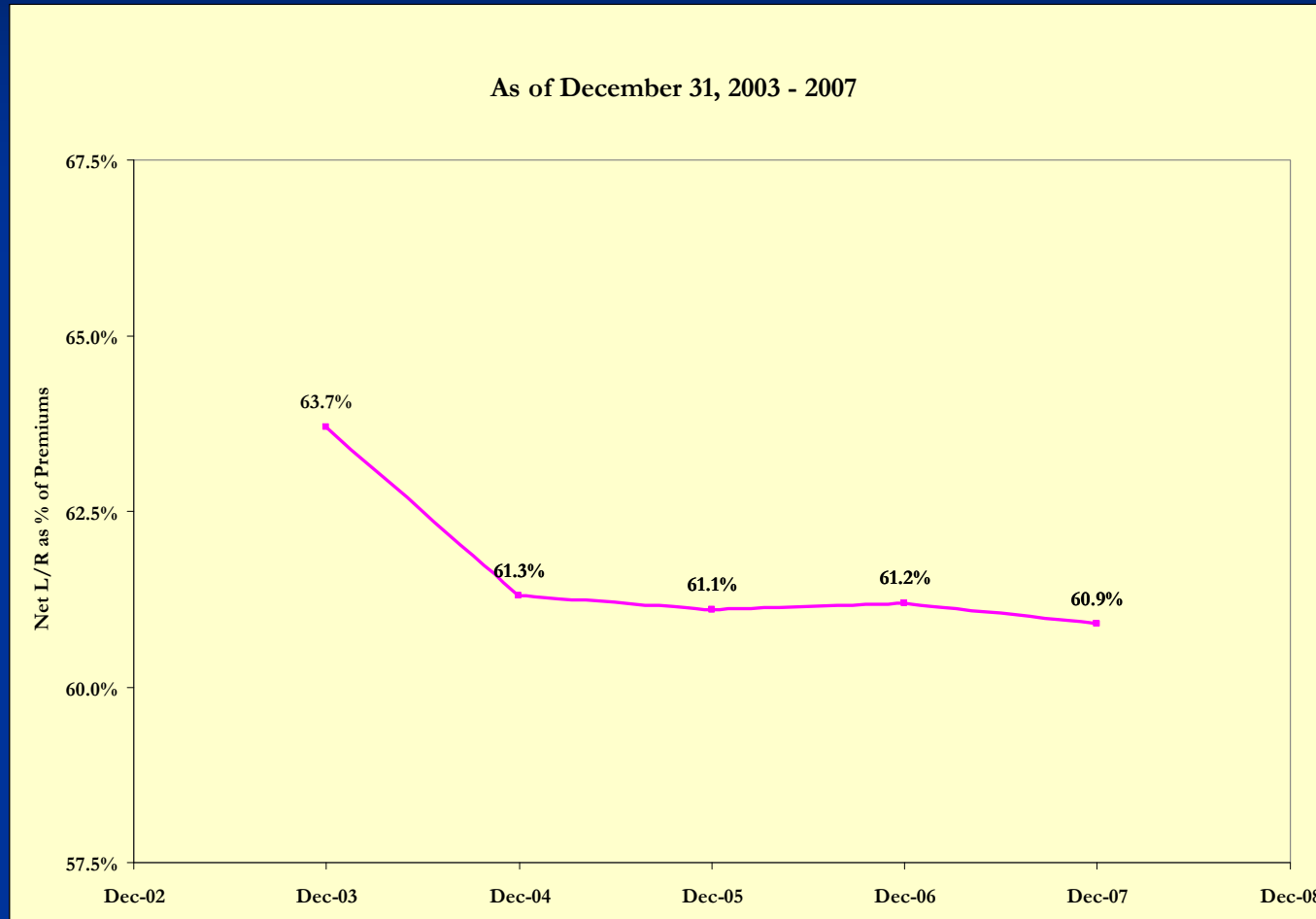
- **Many financial values vary over time, e.g.:**
  - Stock prices
  - Ultimate loss ratio estimates
  - Capital (GAAP and statutory)
- **Such values can be seen as observations from a time-dependent stochastic process**

# Market Value of Common Stocks

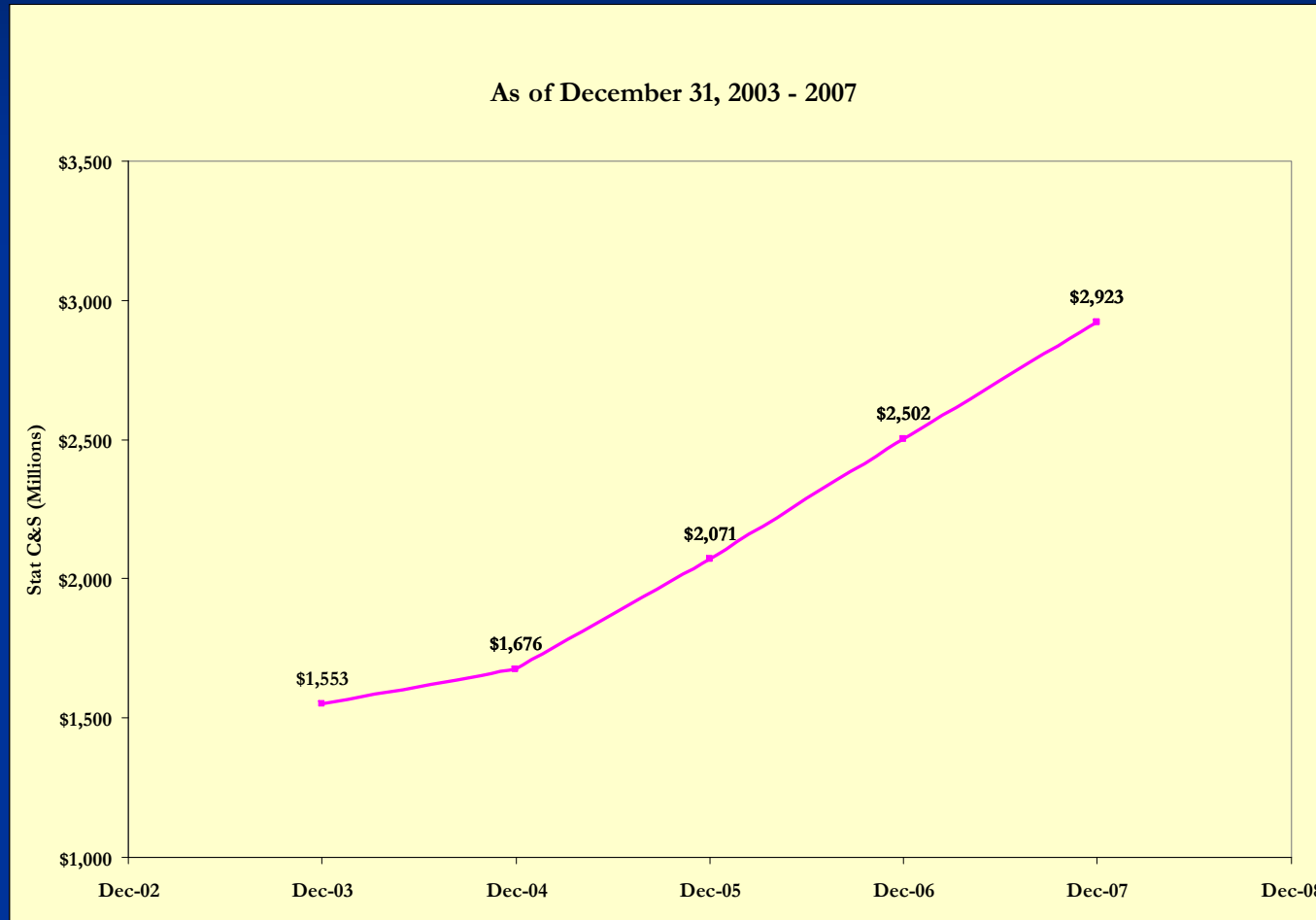
## S&P 500 Stock Index



# Estimated Ultimate Loss Ratio Commercial Auto Liability (U.S. Industry) / Accident Year 2003



# Statutory Capital & Surplus Odyssey America Reinsurance Corporation



# Temporal Aspects of Risk Assessment

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- Risk assessment is about the future
- How will financial variables behave...?
  - Tomorrow
  - Next week
  - Next quarter
  - Next year
- Selected time horizon depends on context and purpose

# Value-at-Risk (VaR)

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- VaR has emerged as a favorite financial risk measure
- Defines downside risk as the amount of loss corresponding to a given cumulative probability (“confidence level”)
- $\text{VaR}_{99.5\%}$  refers to the 99.5 percentile loss (adverse change) amount
- Because financial risks are time-dependent, a *time horizon* must also be defined
  - Traders typically use *daily* time horizon
  - Solvency II calls for *one-year* time horizon

# Value-at-Risk Time Horizons

- **Shorter time horizons typically imply lower  $\text{VaR}_\alpha$  amounts for given  $\alpha$** 
  - $\text{Daily VaR}_{99\%} \leq \text{One-Year VaR}_{99\%}$
- **Shorter time horizons typically imply higher confidence level statements**
  - $\text{Daily VaR}_{99\%} = \text{One-Year VaR}_{99\%-c} \quad (0 < c < 99\%)$
- **Similar to effect in cat analysis of using smaller or larger geographic regions for probability statements, e.g.:**
  - 100-year return time Louisiana-only loss amount ( $\text{Louisiana VaR}_{99\%}$ ) typically less than countrywide  $\text{VaR}_{99\%}$  loss amount



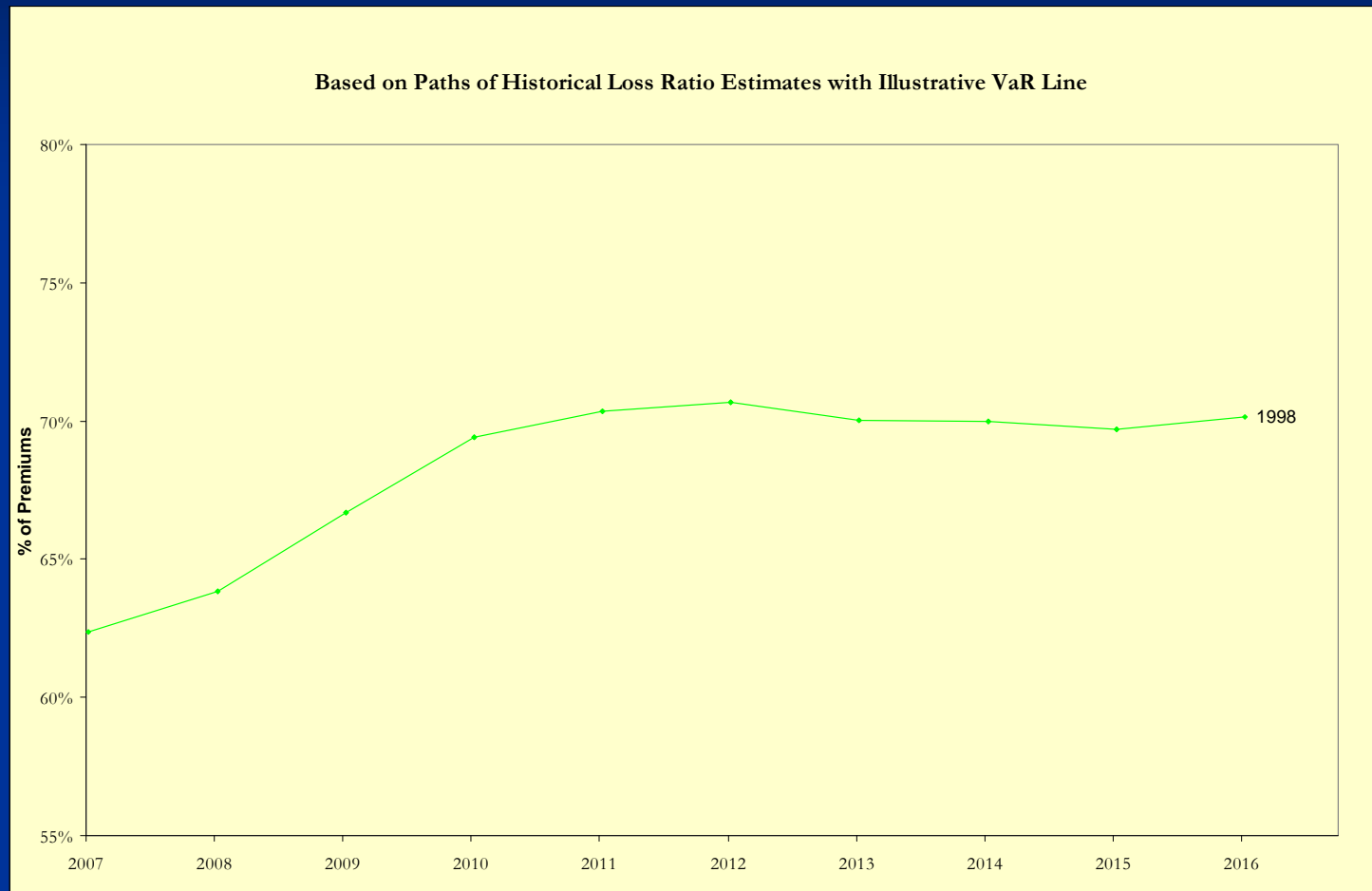
# Commercial Auto Liability Example

## Accident Year 2007

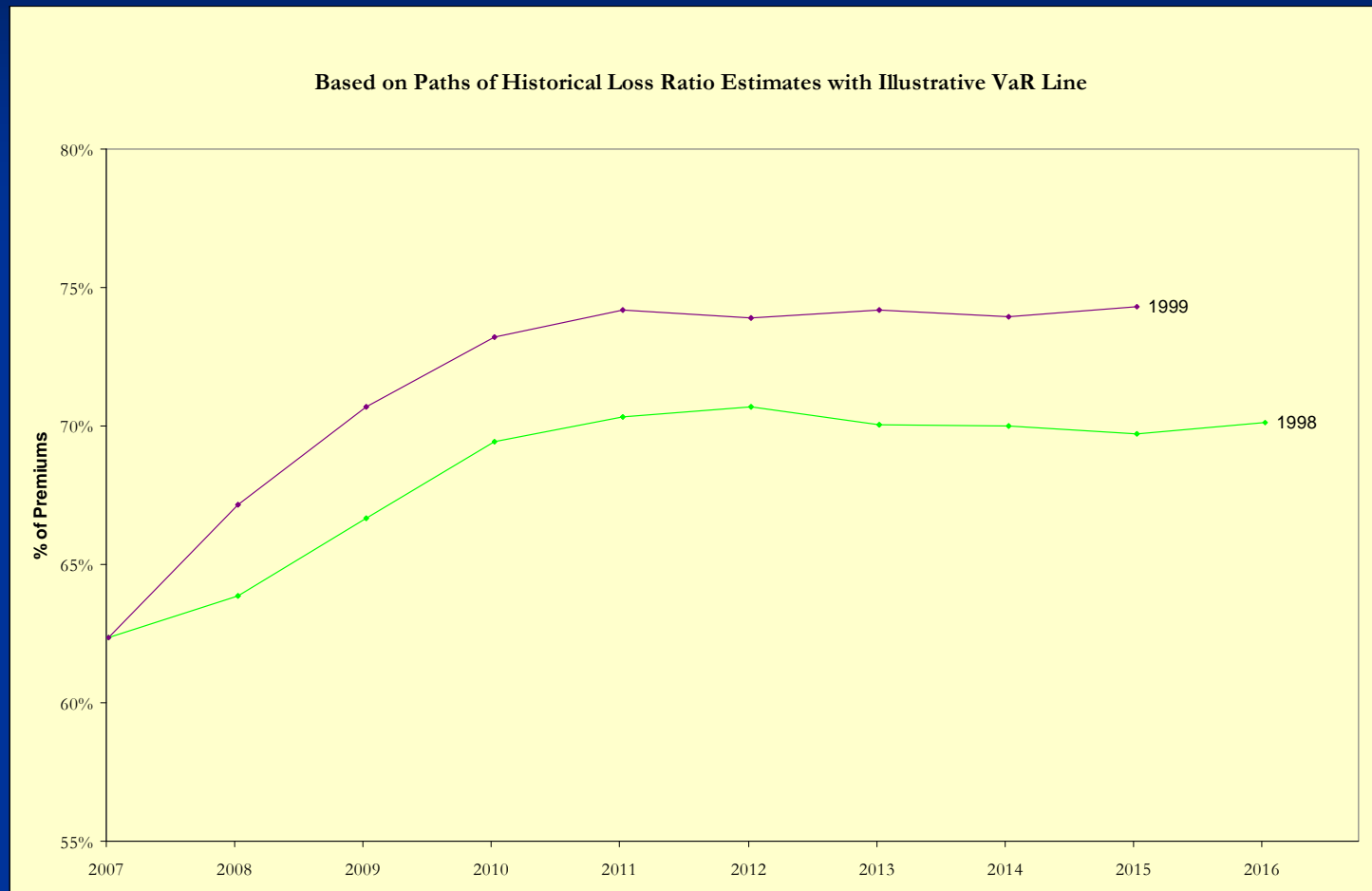
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- **Estimated ultimate net loss ratio**
  - U.S. industry
  - Schedule P (Part 2 Losses / Part 1 Premiums)
  - 62.4% as of 12/31/07
- **How will that estimate change over ...**
  - One year?
  - Two years?
  - Time to ultimate settlement?
- **History provides a guide**

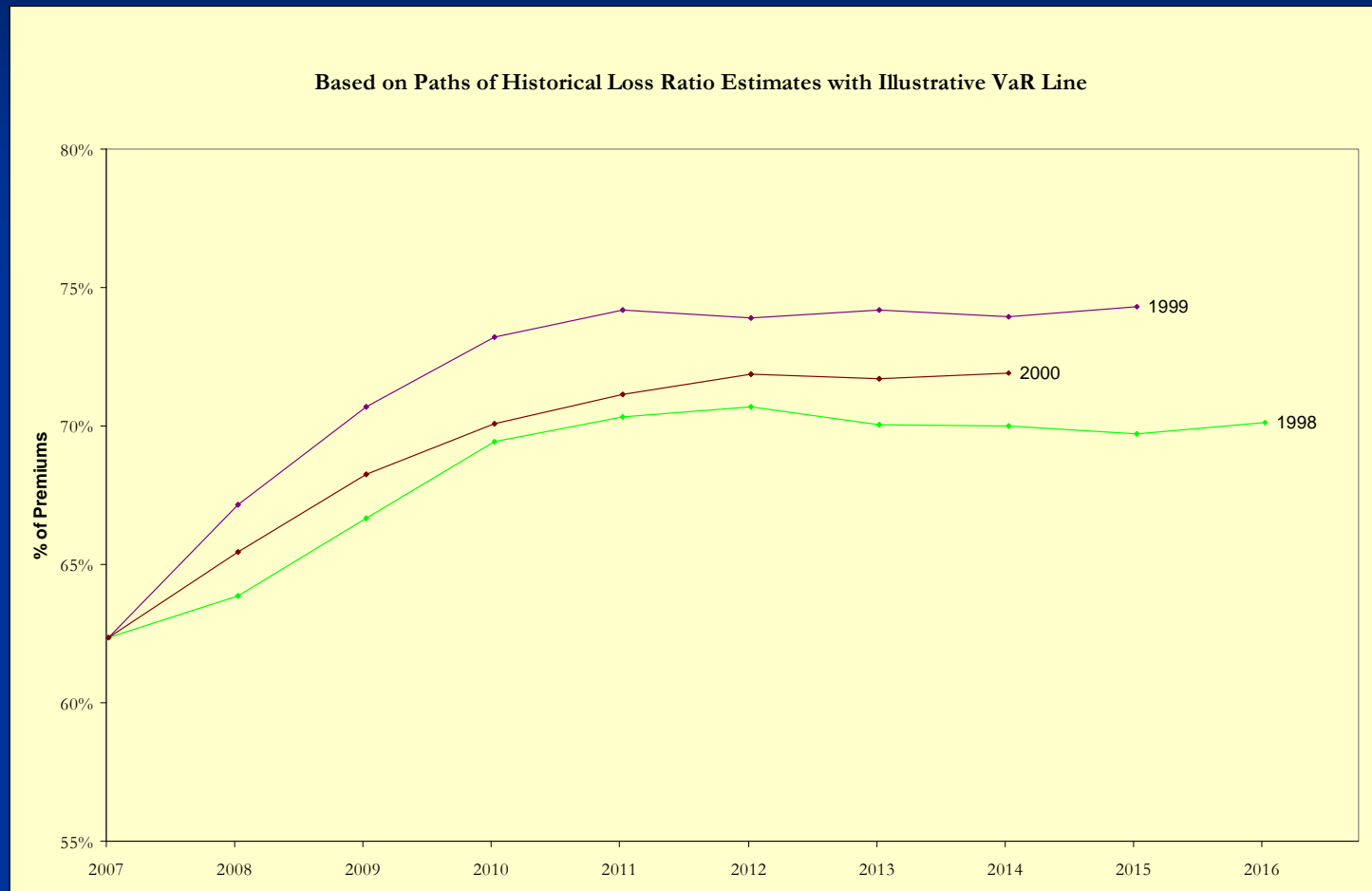
# Prospective Path of Ultimate Loss Ratio Estimates Commercial Auto Liability / Accident Year 2007



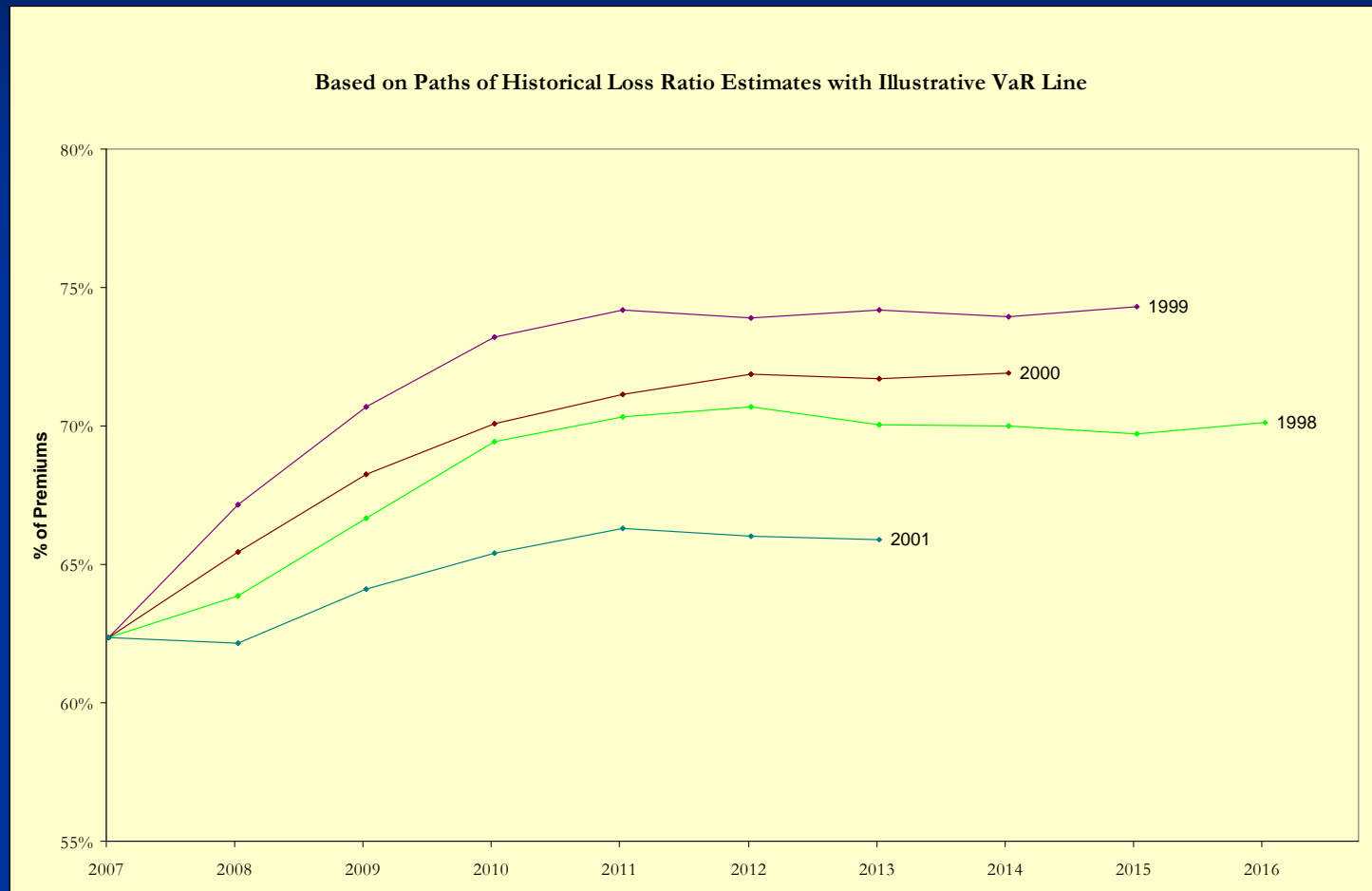
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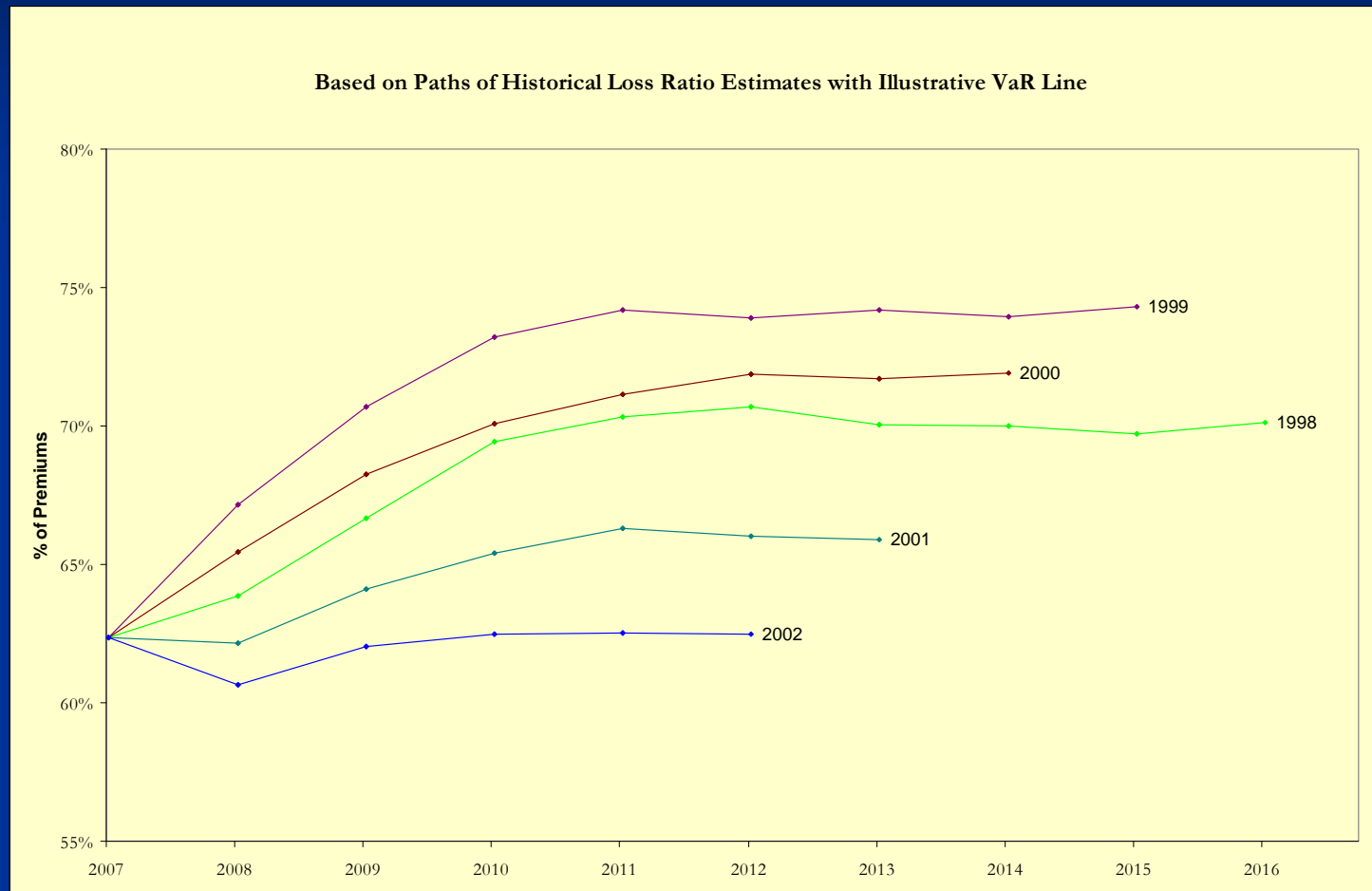
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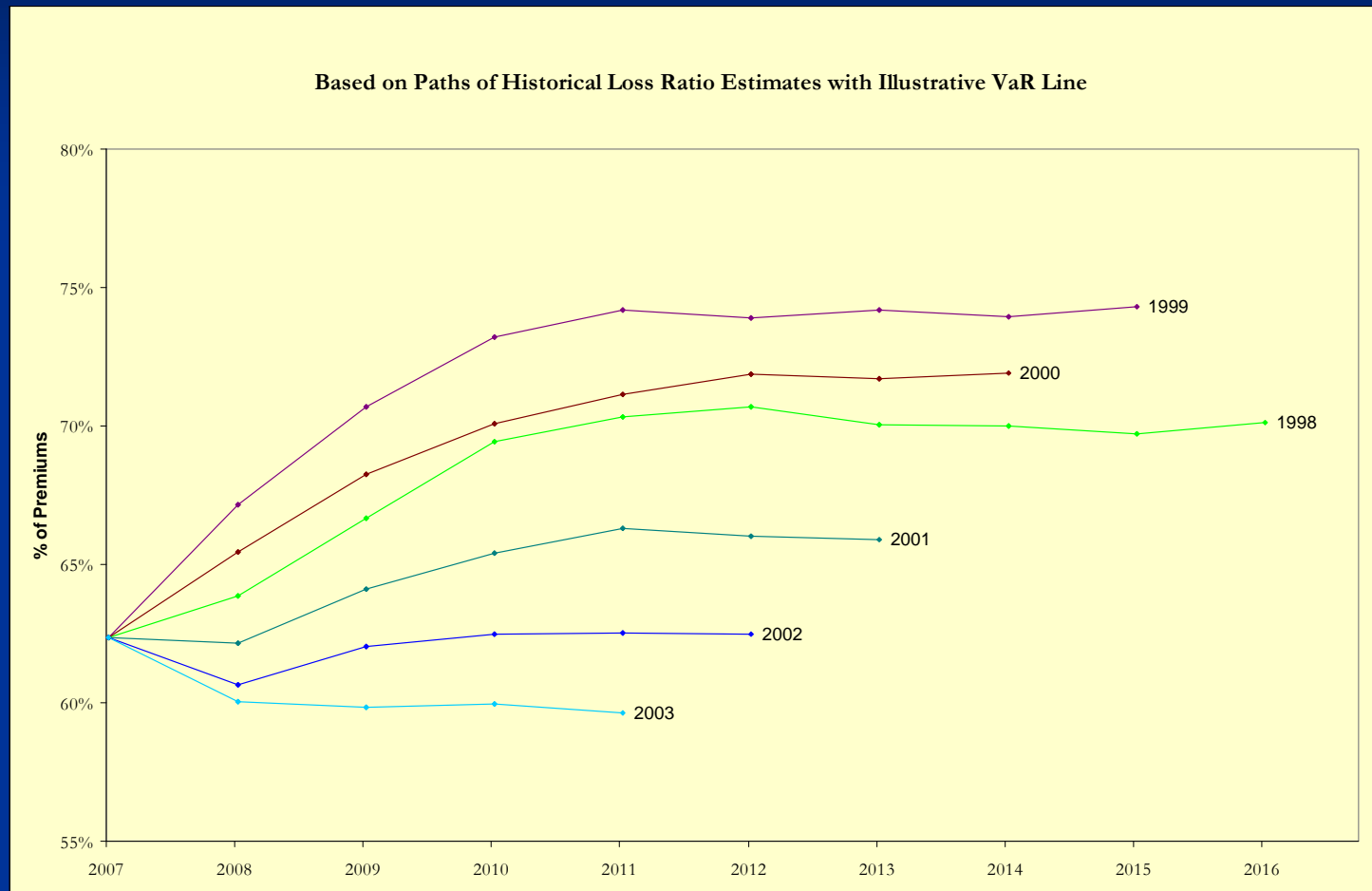
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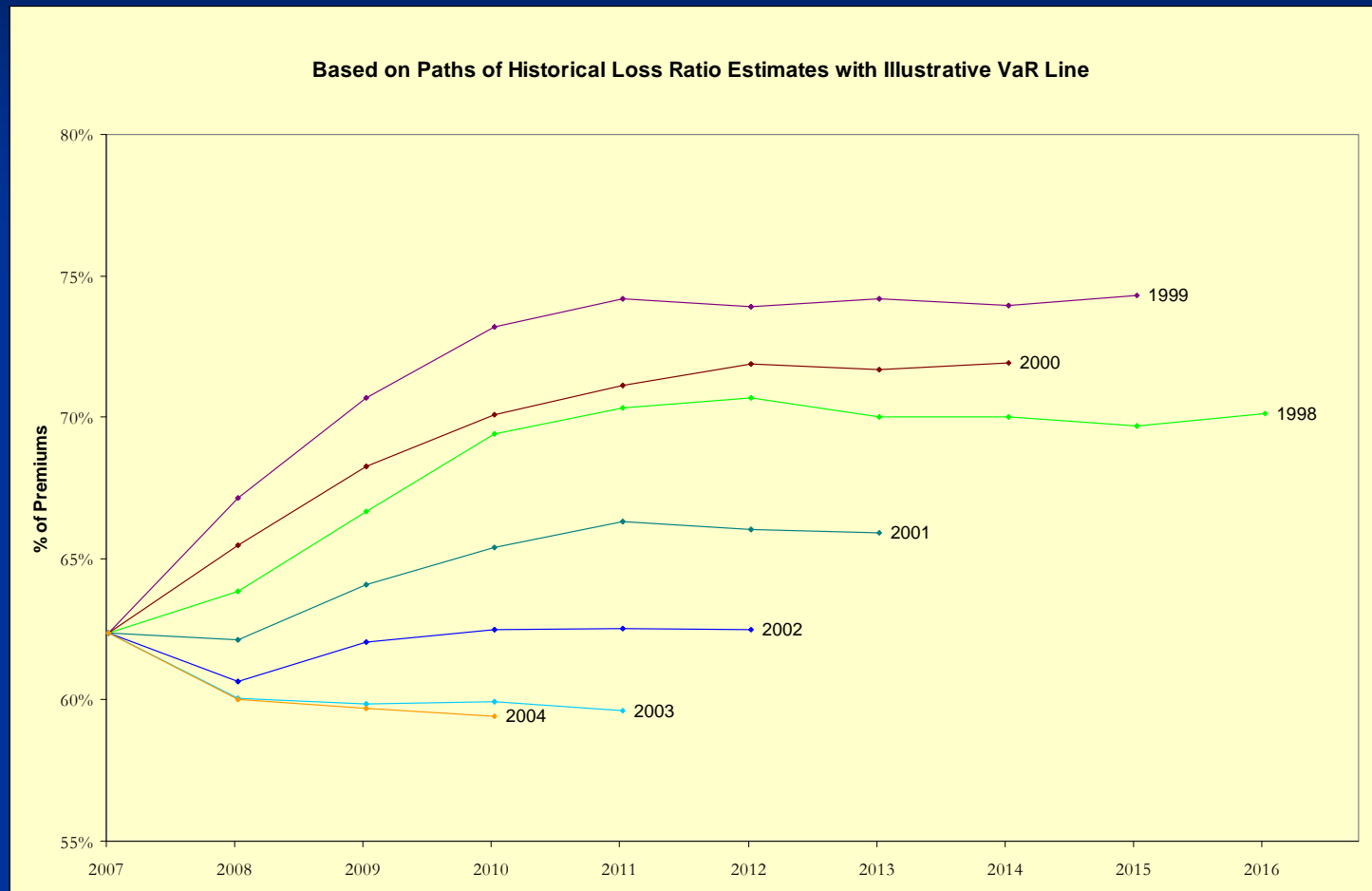
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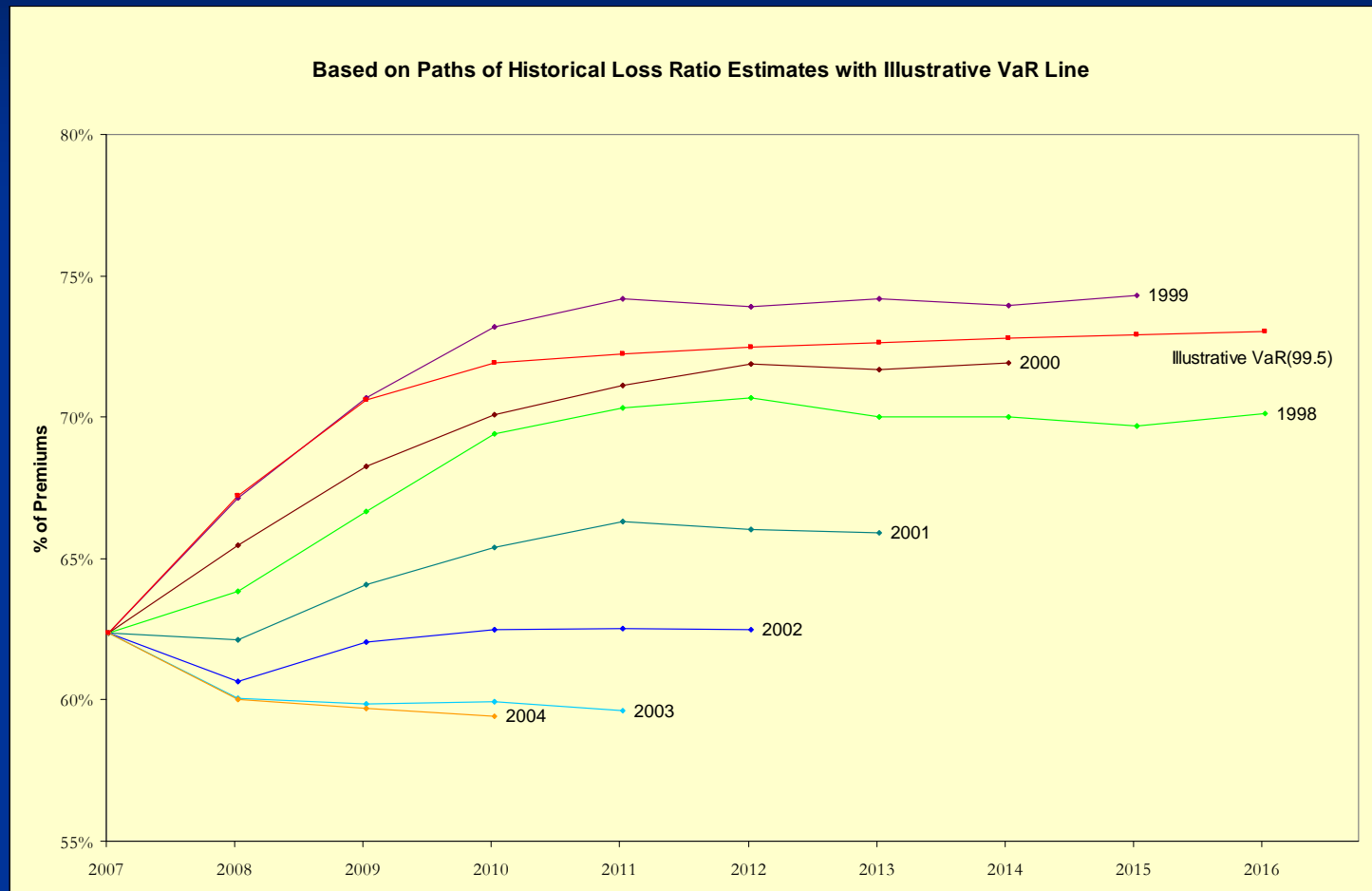


# Prospective Path of Ultimate Loss Ratio Estimates Commercial Auto Liability / Accident Year 2007

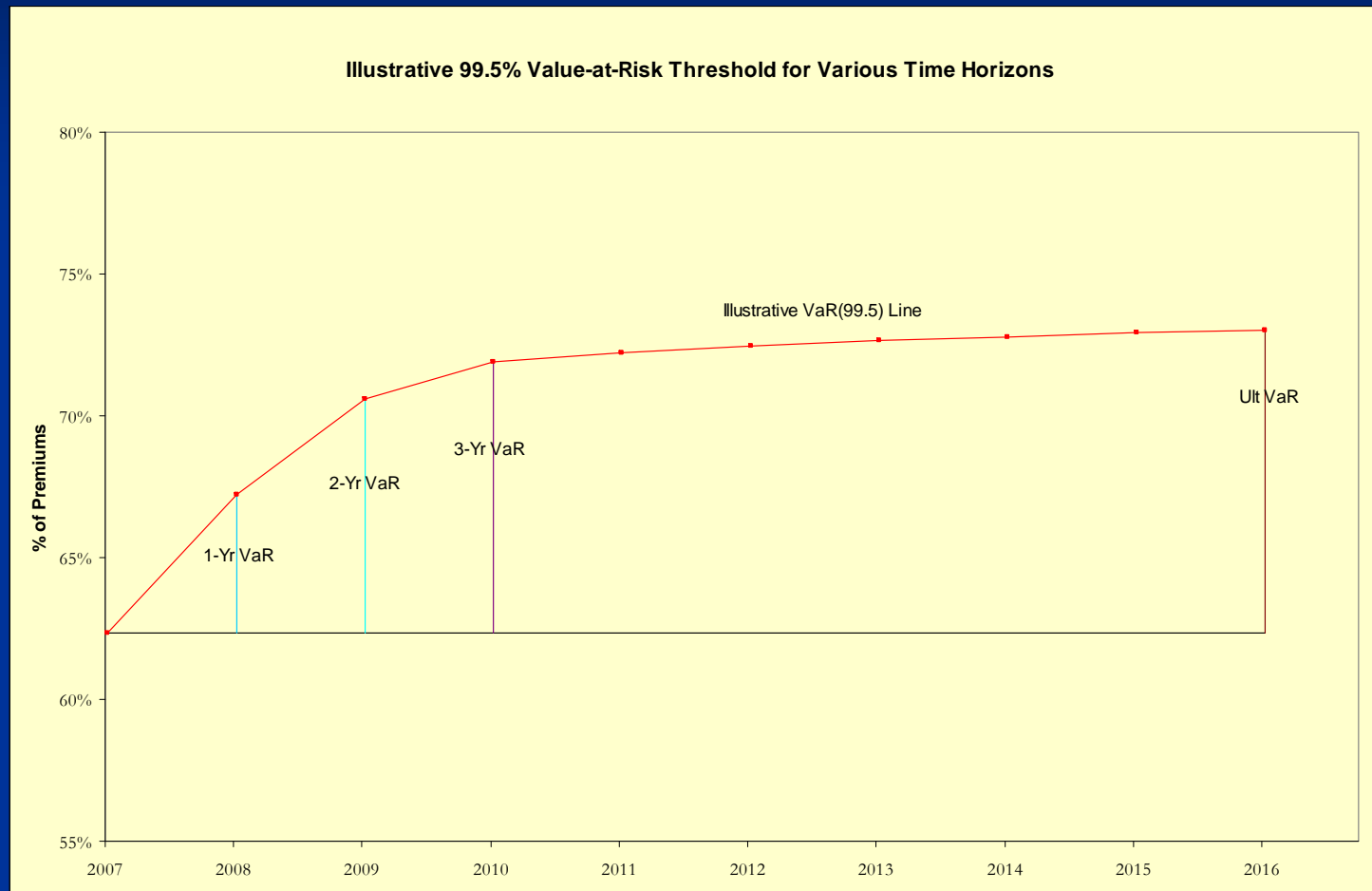




# Prospective Path of Ultimate Loss Ratio Estimates Commercial Auto Liability / Accident Year 2007



# Prospective Path of Ultimate Loss Ratio Estimates Commercial Auto Liability / Accident Year 2007



# Choice of Time Horizon for Risk Assessment

## Case for One-Year Horizon

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- **Coincides with main time unit used for financial reporting**
- **Corresponds to typical insurer planning horizon**
- **Many financial and insurance variables expressed in annual terms, e.g.:**
  - Interest rates
  - Investment returns
  - Common stock volatility
  - Loss ratios
  - Loss development
- **Natural horizon for enterprise risk management**
- **Solvency II uses one-year horizon  $VaR_{99.5\%}$**

# Choice of Time Horizon for Risk Assessment

## Case for Longer than One-Year Horizon

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- **Implies larger capital requirement, thus providing greater solvency protection**

## Capital Adequacy / One-Year Horizon

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- One-year horizon consistent with strong solvency protection
- Butsic pioneered concept in early 1990s
- “Solvency Measurement for Property-Liability Risk-Based Capital Applications”
- Argued that long term solvency protection achievable by periodic capital rebalancing to maintain a constant low exposure to insolvency over a short horizon

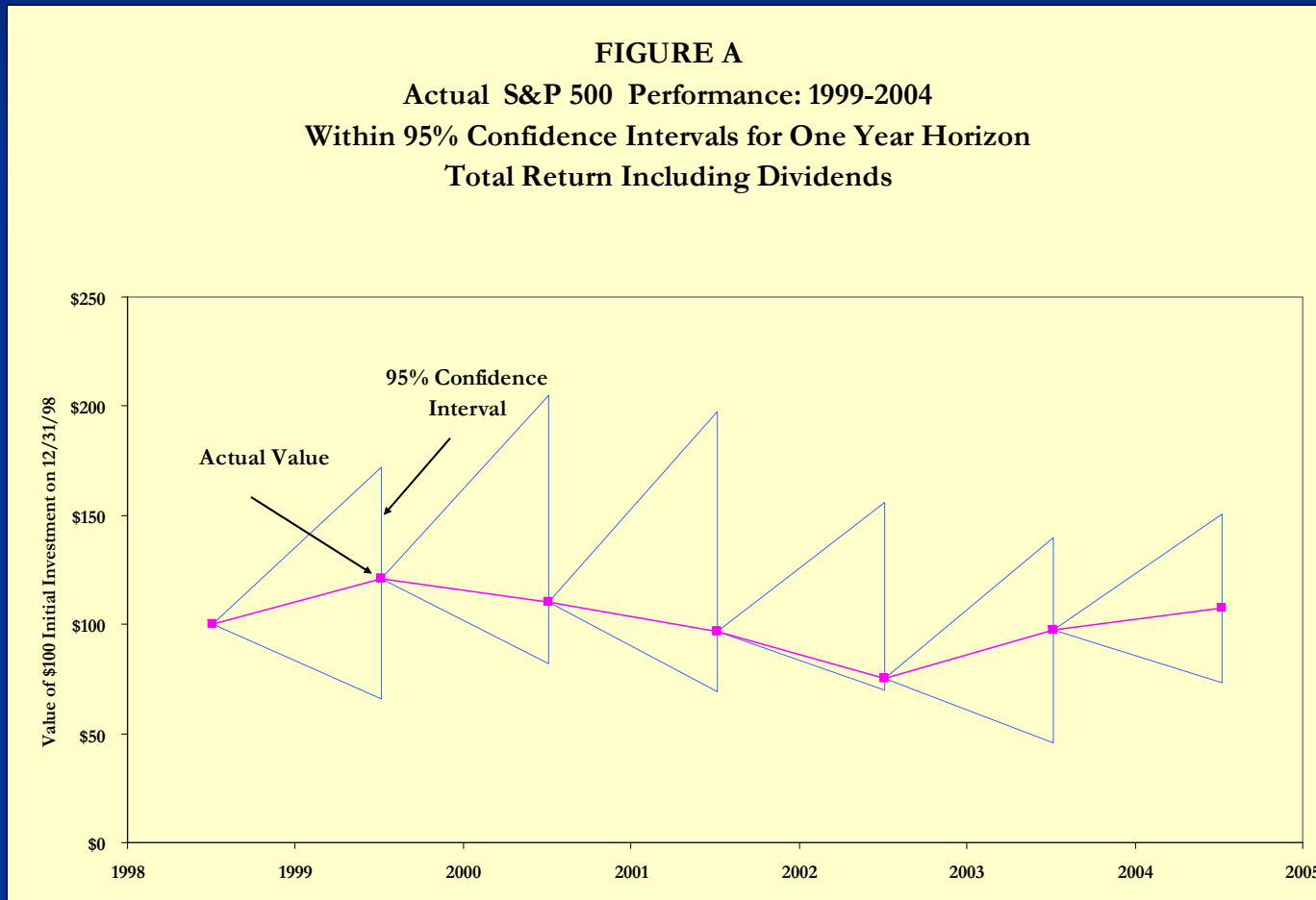
## Capital Adequacy / One-Year Horizon

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- Yours truly presented a fully elaborated example of Butsic's approach in a 2007 paper
- “Consistent Measurement of Property-Casualty Risk-Based Capital Adequacy”
- Paper calibrated capital to a target Expected Policyholder Deficit (EPD)
- Would work equally well with VaR or TVaR
- Several of the following charts are taken from that 2007 paper

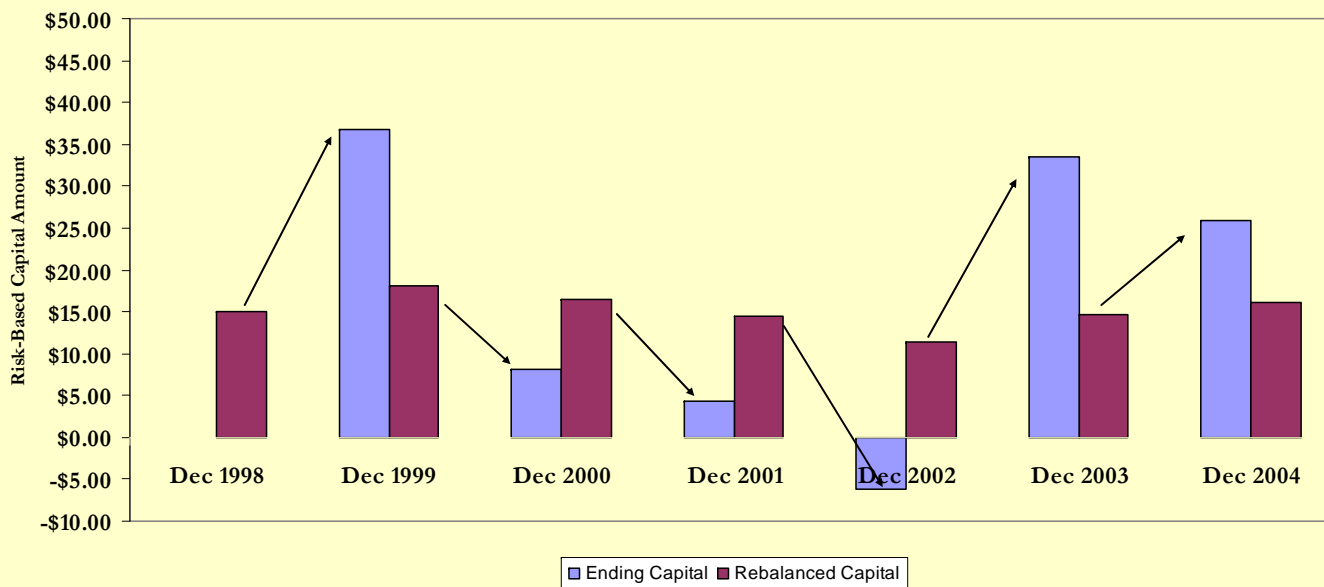
# Excerpt A from Wacek Paper

**FIGURE A**  
**Actual S&P 500 Performance: 1999-2004**  
**Within 95% Confidence Intervals for One Year Horizon**  
**Total Return Including Dividends**



# Excerpt B from Wacek Paper

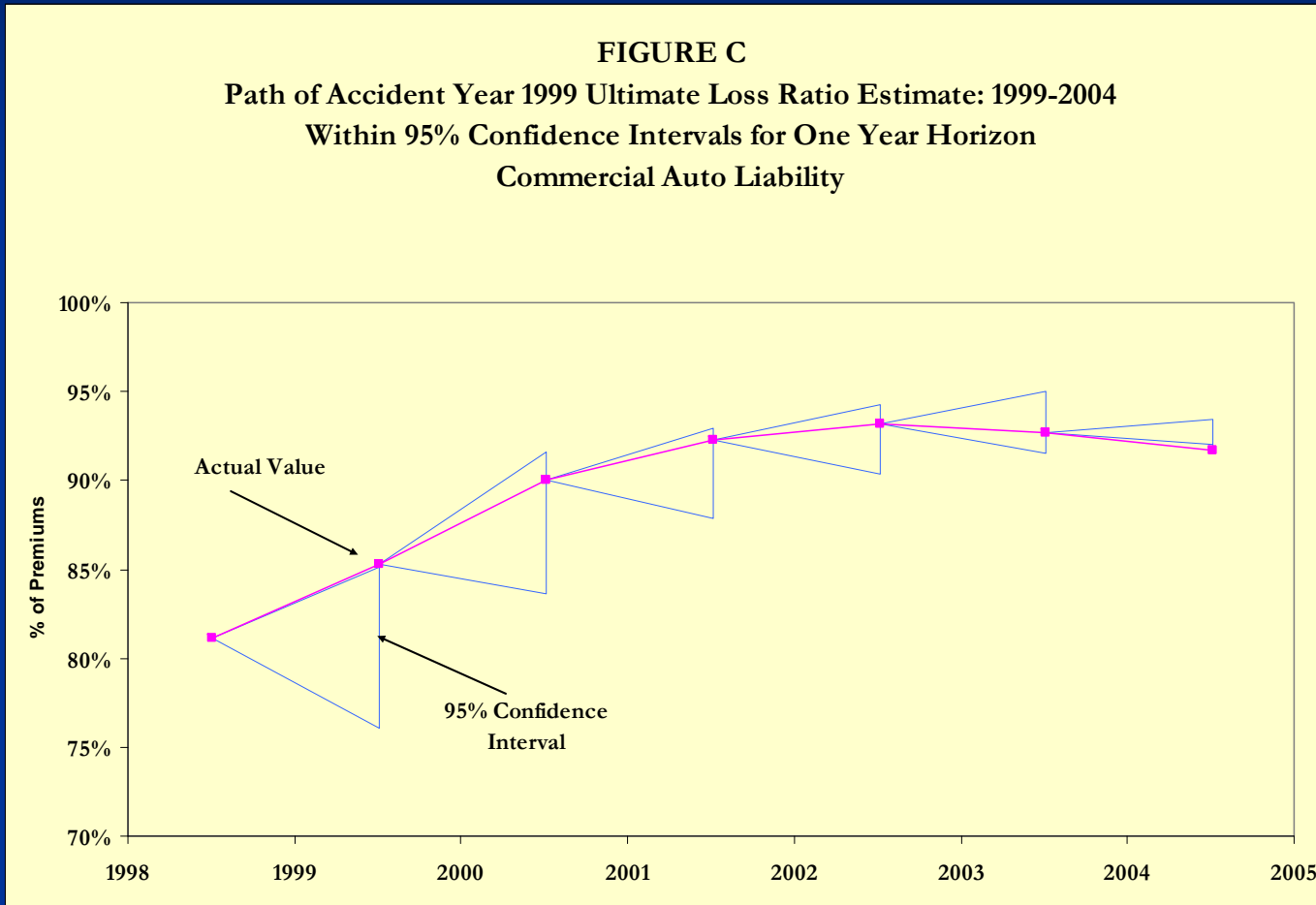
**FIGURE B**  
**Risk-Based Capital for S&P 500 Investment: 1999-2004**  
Investment of \$100 on January 1, 1999  
Required Capital = 15% of Investment Market Value





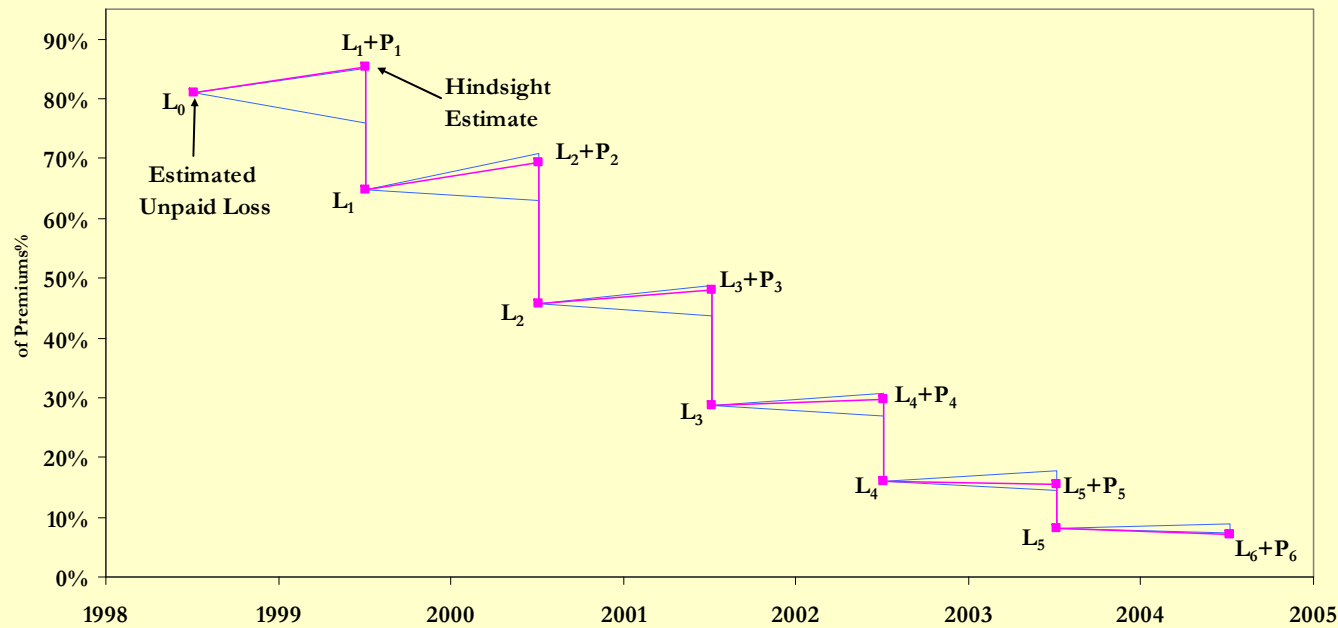
# Excerpt C from Wacek Paper

**FIGURE C**  
**Path of Accident Year 1999 Ultimate Loss Ratio Estimate: 1999-2004**  
**Within 95% Confidence Intervals for One Year Horizon**  
**Commercial Auto Liability**



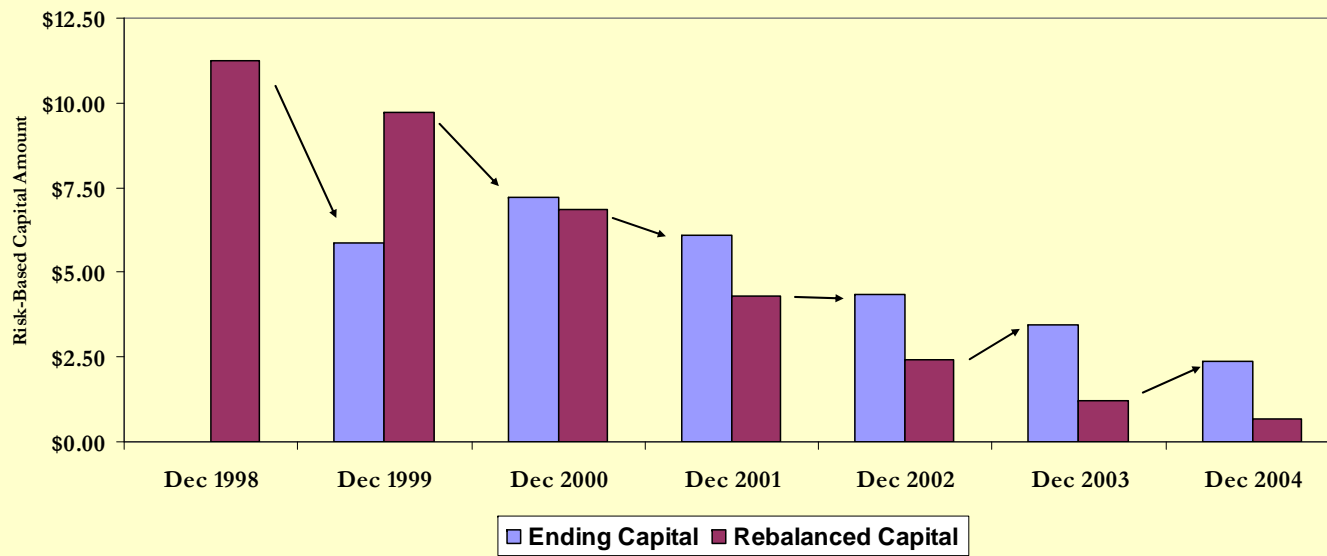
# Excerpt D from Wacek Paper

**FIGURE D**  
Accident Year 1999 Actual & Hindsight Unpaid Loss Ratio Estimates: 1999-2004  
Within 95% Confidence Intervals for One Year Horizon  
Commercial Auto Liability



# Excerpt E from Wacek Paper

**FIGURE E**  
**Risk-Based Capital for Accident Year 1999 Unpaid Losses: 1999-2004**  
**Commercial Auto Liability**  
**1999 Premiums of \$100**  
**Required Capital = 15% of Unpaid Losses**



# Enterprise Risk Management / One Year Horizon

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- ERM requires aggregation of risks from all sources
- Aggregation requires common time horizon
- One-year risk horizon fits with typical insurer planning horizon
- Example to follow

## ERM Example – ABC Insurance Holdings, Inc.

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- Hypothetical insurance holding company
- September 30, 2008 consolidated GAAP equity of \$1 billion
- Key measure: One-year CHANGE IN GAAP EQUITY from 9/30/08
- Enterprise risks modeled separately and in combination

# ERM Example – ABC Insurance Holdings, Inc.

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- **ERM modeling date: 9/30/08**
  
- **Prospective Underwriting Risks through 9/30/09**
  - Accident year ending 9/30/09 as of 9/30/09
    - Underwriting result with expected catastrophe losses
    - “Unexpected” catastrophe losses (deviation from expected)
  - Prior accident year loss reserve development
  - Ceded reinsurance (change in reserve for uncollectibles)
  
- **Prospective Investment Risks through 9/30/09**
  - Bonds
  - Common stocks
  - Cash
  - Other invested assets and liabilities (e.g., credit default swaps)

# ABC Insurance Holdings Value-at-Risk Table

Downside and Upside Potential (% of GAAP Equity) by Major Risk Source  
One-Year GAAP Equity Gains & Losses by Return Time - Based on Portfolio Risks as of 9/30/08

Major Risk Source	Downside Risks (Pre-Tax)		Return Time Legend:							
			< 0%	0% - 5%	5% - 15%	15% - 30%	> 30%			
	Actual 9/30/08 (1)		5-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Loss		25-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Loss		100-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Loss		250-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Loss	
	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity
Fixed Income Investments	\$2,250	225.0%	\$60	6.0%	\$214	21.4%	\$306	30.6%	\$340	34.0%
Net Common Stocks (at Mkt)	\$200	20.0%	\$32	3.2%	\$61	6.1%	\$74	7.4%	\$82	8.2%
Common Stocks (at Equity)	\$10	1.0%	(\$1)	-0.1%	(\$0)	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
Cash / Short Term Investments	\$300	30.0%	(\$3)	-0.3%	(\$3)	-0.3%	(\$3)	-0.3%	(\$3)	-0.3%
Other Invested Assets ex CDS Etc.	\$5	0.5%	\$1	0.1%	\$2	0.2%	\$3	0.3%	\$3	0.3%
Credit Default Swaps (CDS) - Long	\$10	1.0%	\$9	0.9%	\$9	0.9%	\$9	0.9%	\$9	0.9%
Ceded Recoverables / Contingencies	\$400	40.0%	\$13	1.3%	\$24	2.4%	\$31	3.1%	\$35	3.5%
Net Foreign Currency (FX) Exposure	\$100	10.0%	\$5	0.5%	\$11	1.1%	\$14	1.4%	\$16	1.6%
Net Loss Reserves	\$1,600	160.0%	\$70	7.0%	\$171	17.1%	\$247	24.7%	\$306	30.6%
Abnormal Cat Losses (2)	\$150	15.0%	\$82	8.2%	\$321	32.1%	\$467	46.7%	\$549	54.9%
Acc Yr U/W Result (Cat-Adjusted) (3)	\$84	8.4%	(\$38)	-3.8%	\$7	0.7%	\$35	3.5%	\$55	5.5%
<b>All Risk Sources (Pre-Tax)</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>\$281</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>\$471</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>\$568</b>	<b>56.8%</b>
<b>All Risk Sources (After-Tax)</b>			<b>\$26</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>\$183</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>\$306</b>	<b>30.6%</b>	<b>\$414</b>	<b>41.4%</b>

Major Risk Source	Upside Opportunities (Pre-Tax)		Return Time Legend:							
			< 0%	0% - 5%	5% - 15%	15% - 30%	> 30%			
	Actual 9/30/08 (1)		5-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Gain		25-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Gain		100-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Gain		250-Year Return Time Pre-Tax Gain	
	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity	Amount (Millions)	% GAAP Equity
Fixed Income Investments	\$2,250	225.0%	\$270	27.0%	\$514	51.4%	657	65.7%	\$756	75.6%
Net Common Stocks (at Mkt)	\$200	20.0%	\$53	5.3%	\$117	11.7%	163	16.3%	190	19.0%
Common Stocks (at Equity)	\$10	1.0%	\$1	0.1%	\$2	0.2%	2	0.2%	\$3	0.3%
Cash / Short Term Investments	\$300	30.0%	\$9	0.9%	\$13	1.3%	15	1.5%	\$17	1.7%
Other Invested Assets ex CDS Etc.	\$5	0.5%	\$2	0.2%	\$4	0.4%	5	0.5%	\$6	0.6%
Credit Default Swaps (CDS) - Long	\$10	1.0%	(\$2)	-0.2%	\$9	0.9%	23	2.3%	\$35	3.5%
Ceded Recoverables / Contingencies	\$400	40.0%	\$4	0.4%	\$4	0.4%	4	0.4%	\$4	0.4%
Net Foreign Currency (FX) Exposure	\$100	10.0%	\$5	0.5%	\$11	1.1%	15	1.5%	\$17	1.7%
Net Loss Reserves	\$1,600	160.0%	\$76	7.6%	\$142	14.2%	177	17.7%	\$205	20.5%
Abnormal Cat Losses (2)	\$150	15.0%	\$98	9.8%	\$126	12.6%	135	13.5%	\$138	13.8%
Acc Yr U/W Result (Cat-Adjusted) (3)	\$84	8.4%	\$130	13.0%	184	18.4%	225	22.5%	245	24.5%
<b>All Risk Sources (Pre-Tax)</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$389</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>\$644</b>	<b>64.4%</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>\$945</b>	<b>94.5%</b>
<b>All Risk Sources (After-Tax)</b>			<b>\$253</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>41.8%</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>\$615</b>	<b>61.5%</b>

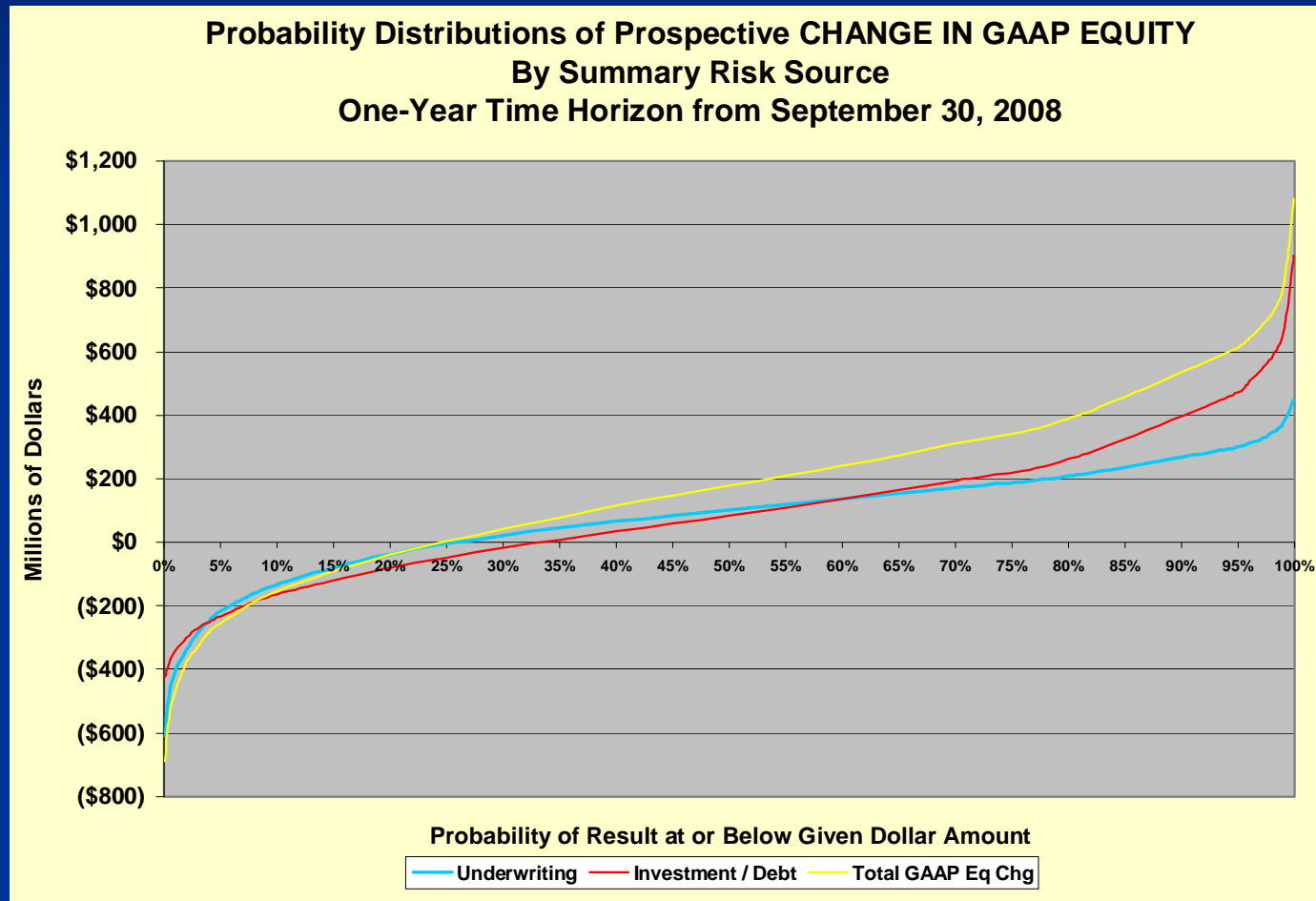
  

Notes

- Balance Sheet Amounts and % of GAAP Equity, except Cat Losses and Underwriting
- Actual 9/30/08 Amount is Expected ("Normal") Cat Loss
- Actual 9/30/08 Amount is Expected Underwriting Margin at 12 Months with Expected Cat Losses

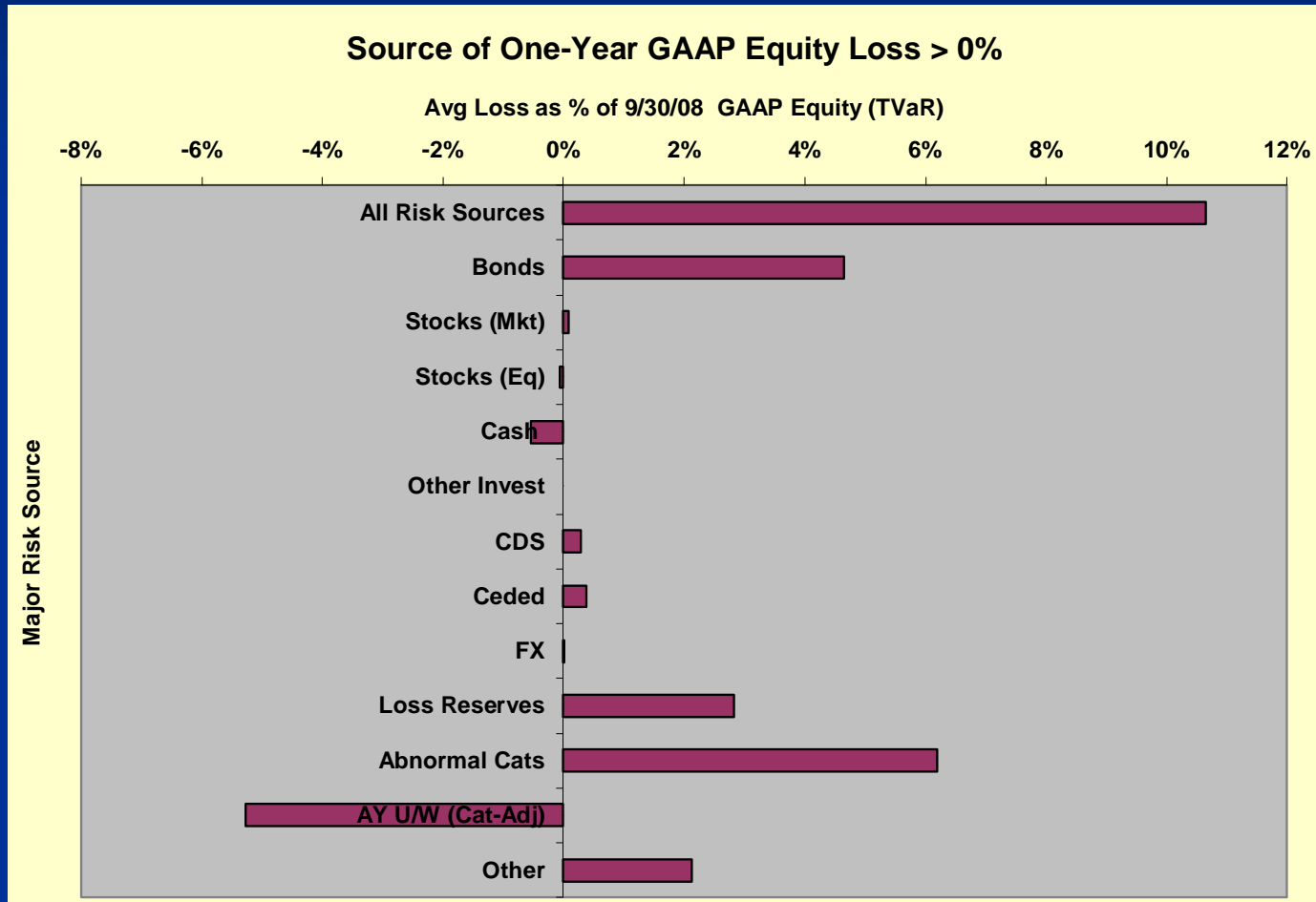
9/30/08 GAAP Equity	\$1,000.0	Avg Change
Average 9/30/08 GAAP Equity	\$1,114.4	11.44%

# ABC Insurance Holdings Downside / Upside Profile

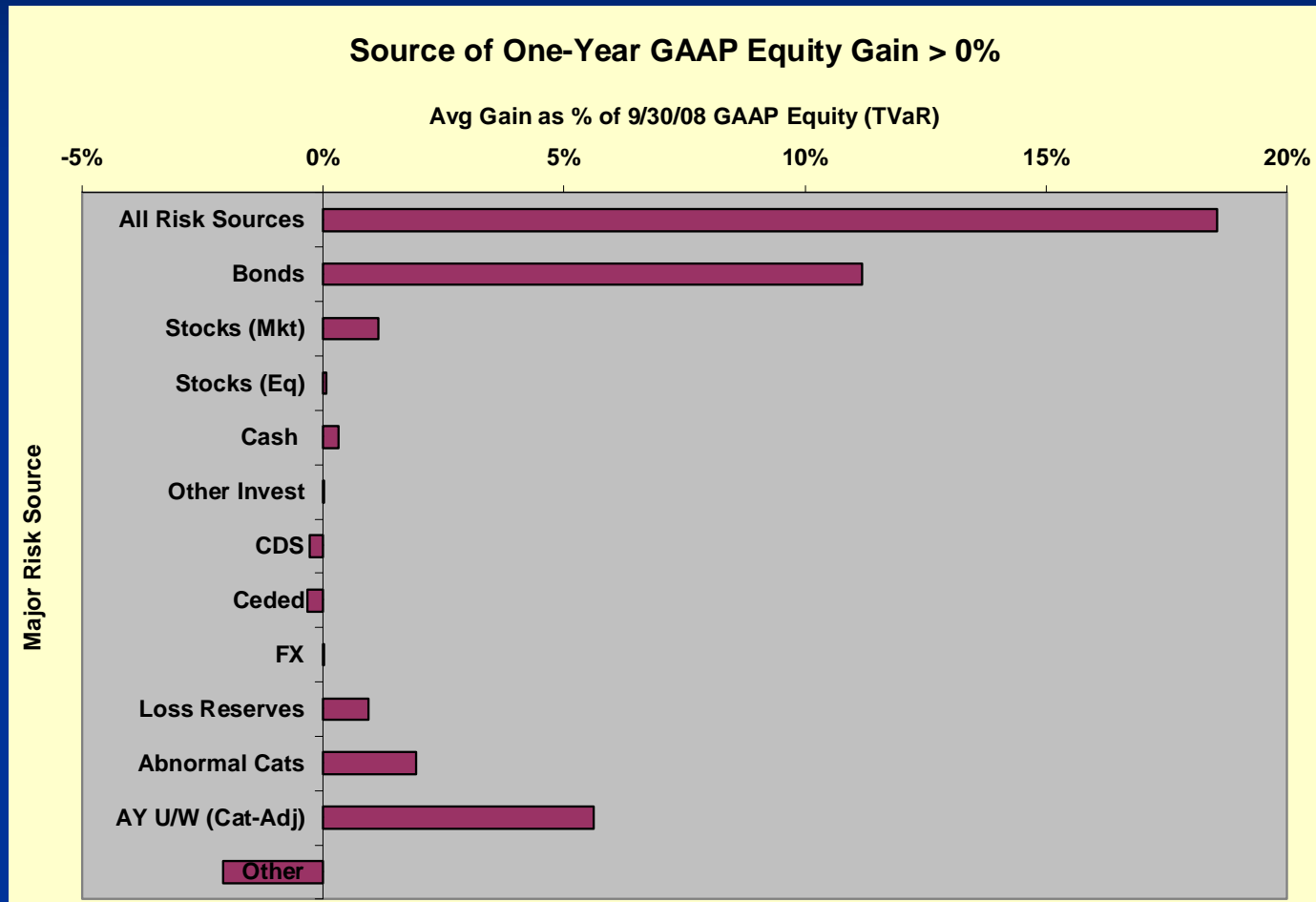




# ABC Insurance Holdings – TVaR Loss Profile



# ABC Insurance Company – TVaR Gain Profile



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## Q & A