

# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates



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## Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

▪ **Benchmark:** A standard, or a set of standards, used as a point of reference for evaluating performance or level of quality. Benchmarks may be drawn from a firm's own experience, from the experience of other firms in the industry, or from legal requirements such as environmental regulations.

Source: businessdictionary.com



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## Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

- Have you ever calculated an estimate of unpaid claims?
  - P&C (General) Insurance, any LOB or segment
  - For any reason, reserves, pricing, ERM, etc.
- Have you ever used a benchmark to help with your estimated unpaid claims or range of estimates?



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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

Outline

1	Background
2	Analysis Summary
3	Model Limitations
4	Model Projections – Are they Unbiased?
5	Proposed Adjustments
6	Conclusions
7	Claim Variability Guidelines

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**Background**  
Hindsight Analysis

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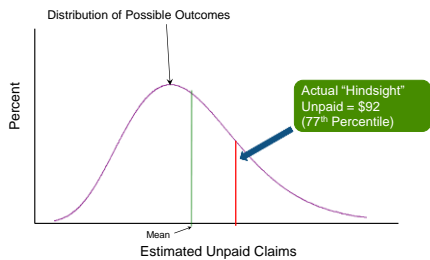
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## Hypothetical Unpaid Claim Distribution



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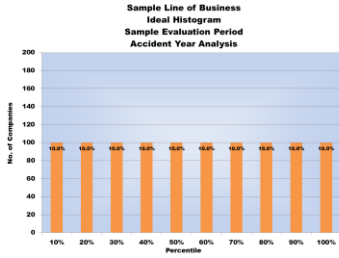
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## If Model is Correct...



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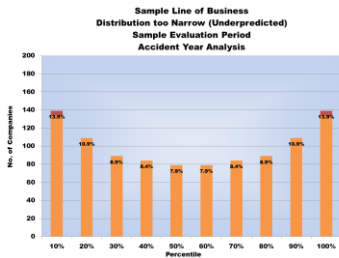
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## If Model Underestimates Distribution...



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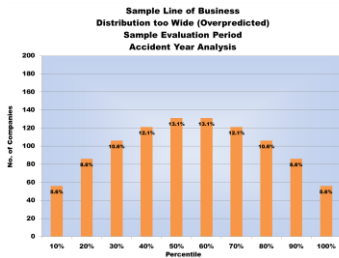
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## If Model Overestimates Distribution...



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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Background Prior Research

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### Meyers & Shi

“...study suggests that there might be environmental changes that no single model can identify.”

“If this continues to hold, the actuarial profession cannot rely solely on stochastic loss reserve models to manage its reserve risk.”

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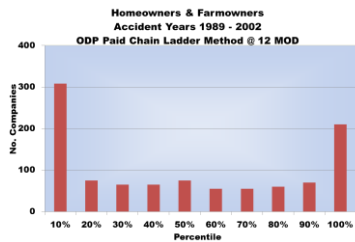
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### Leong, Wang & Chen



Leong, Jessica (Weng Kah), Shaun Wang, and Han Chen, "Back-Testing the ODP Bootstrap of the Paid Chain-Ladder Model with Actual Historical Claims Data," CAS E-Forum, Summer 2012, 1-34.

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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Leong, Wang & Chen

“...the popular ODP bootstrap of the paid chain-ladder method is underestimating reserve risk.”

“...the bootstrap model does not consider systemic risk, or, to put it another way, the risk that future trends in the claims environment – such as inflation, trends in tort reform, legislative changes, etc. – may deviate from what we saw in the past.”

Leong, Jessica (Weng Kah), Shaun Wang, and Han Chen, “Back-Testing the ODP Bootstrap of the Paid Chain-Ladder Model with Actual Historical Claims Data,” CAS E-Forum, Summer 2012, 1-34.

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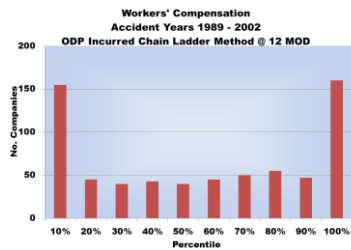
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## Leong, Wang & Chen



Leong, Jessica (Weng Kah), Shaun Wang, and Han Chen, “Back-Testing the ODP Bootstrap of the Paid Chain-Ladder Model with Actual Historical Claims Data,” CAS E-Forum, Summer 2012, 1-34.

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## Leong, Wang & Chen

“...it appears that the incurred bootstrap model is also underestimating the risk of falling in these extreme percentiles.”

**Note:** This is not the same incurred ODP bootstrap model as described in the Shapland Monograph.

Leong, Jessica (Weng Kah), Shaun Wang, and Han Chen, “Back-Testing the ODP Bootstrap of the Paid Chain-Ladder Model with Actual Historical Claims Data,” CAS E-Forum, Summer 2012, 1-34.

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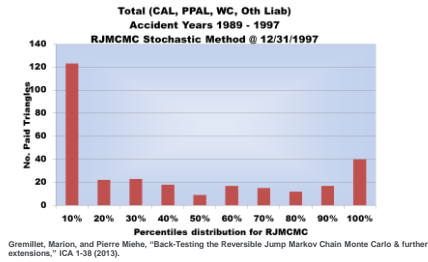
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Gremillet & Miehle



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## Gremillet & Miehle

"...it is core to have adjustments by actuaries prior to running the stochastic methods 'automatically.' "

"Actuary in the box" dream for stochastic reserves valuation not yet happening

Gremillet, Marion, and Pierre Miehle, "Back-Testing the Reversible Jump Markov Chain Monte Carlo & further extensions," ICA 1-38 (2013).

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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Analyses

Item	Meyers & Shi	Leong, Wang & Chen	Gremillet & Miehe	Shapland
Data	50 Companies	21 (MPL) to 78 (PPAL) Companies	?	1,679 Companies
Evaluations	1	11	5	9
Models	2	2	3	8
Lines of Business	1	9	4	16
Triangle Sets	50	-4,950	296	30,707

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## Analysis Details

- **ODP Bootstrap**
  - Paid Chain Ladder
  - Incurred Chain Ladder
  - Paid Bornhuetter-Ferguson
  - Incurred Bornhuetter-Ferguson
  - Paid Cape Cod
  - Incurred Cape Cod
  - Weighted
- **Mack Bootstrap**
  - Paid Chain Ladder

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## Analysis Details

- **Beginning Data**
  - NAIC Schedule P – 4,796 Companies (& Groups)
  - Remove all triangles without 10 years of data (Paid, Incurred, etc.)
  - Other data quality tests → "quality data"
  - Test whether next 9 years are identical → "complete data"
- **Test Data**
  - 2,104 Companies with at least 2 Schedule P LOBs of "quality data"
  - Total of 75,000+ LOBs with "quality data"
  - 1,679 Companies with at least 1 Schedule P LOB of "complete data"
  - Total of 30,707 LOBs with "complete data"
  - Approx. 27,000 LOBs with at least 2 for same Company

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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Analysis Details

### Model Output

- Accident Year Totals (by Year & All Years Combined)
- Calendar Year Totals (by Year)
- Calendar Year Runoff Totals (by Year)
- Ultimate Loss Ratios (by Year)
- Incremental Results (by Year and Development Period)
- Diagnostic Statistics

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## Analysis Details

### Model Options (Tests)

- **Test 1 – Defaults**
  - No Tail factors (i.e., 1.000)
  - BF – a priori based on hindsight L/R, **No CoV**
  - CC – Trend = 2.5%, Decay Ratio = 90%
- **Test 2 – Selected Limiting of Incrementals**
- **Test 3 – Selected Limiting & Suggested Heteroscedasticity Groups**

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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Model Limitations

- **Model Risk**
  - Limited to known data
  - A single model can underestimate variability
- **Systemic risk**
  - In addition to model risk
  - A shift in claims environment
- **Need to Understand Assumptions**

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## Major Assumption

Bootstrap models (ODP & Mack) assume Chain Ladder projections are unbiased

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**Model Projections**  
Are they Unbiased?

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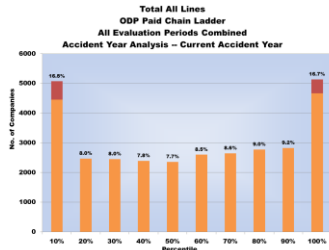
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Tests

Test 1



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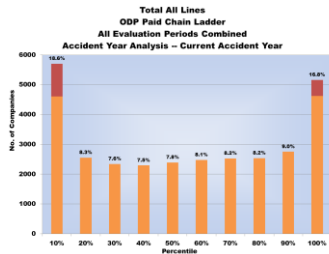
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## Comparison of Tests

Test 2



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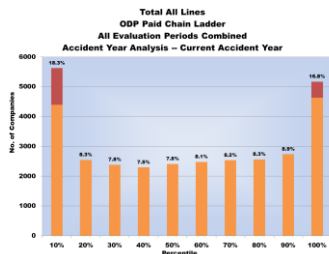
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## Comparison of Tests

Test 3



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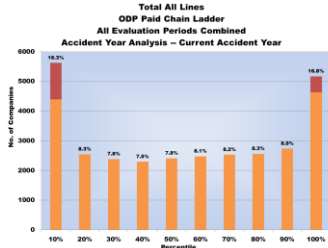
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Accident Years

Current



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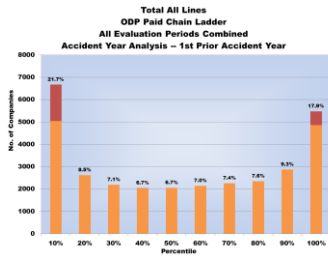
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## Comparison of Accident Years

1 Prior



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## Comparison of Accident Years

2 Prior



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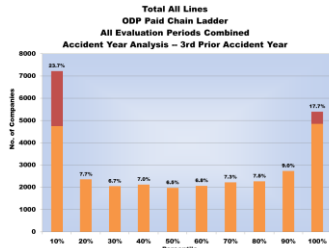
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Accident Years

3 Prior



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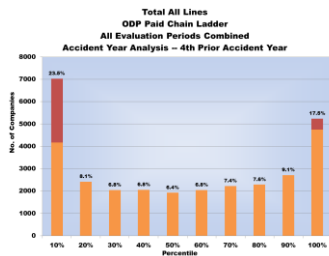
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## Comparison of Accident Years

4 Prior



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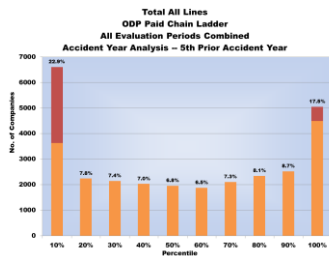
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## Comparison of Accident Years

5 Prior



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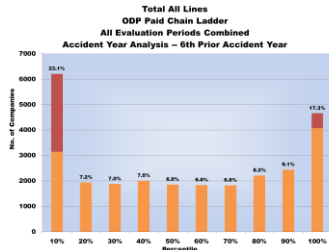
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Accident Years

6 Prior



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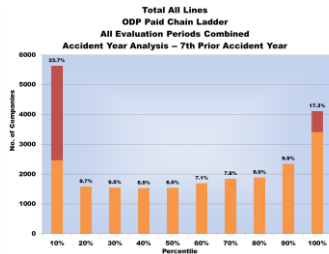
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## Comparison of Accident Years

7 Prior



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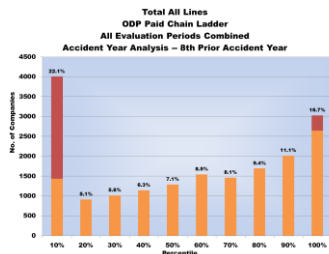
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## Comparison of Accident Years

8 Prior



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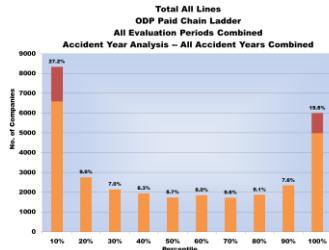
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Accident Years

ALL



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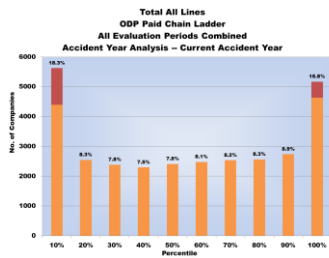
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## Comparison of Output

Acc Yr



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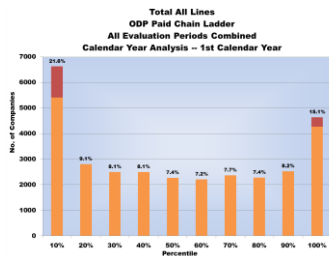
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## Comparison of Output

Cal Yr



Milliman

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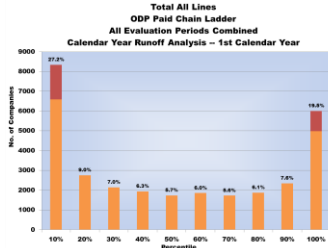
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Output

Cal Yr  
Runoff



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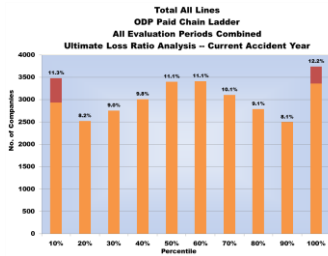
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## Comparison of Output

Ult L/R



Milliman

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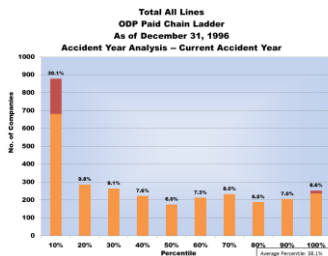
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## Comparison of Evaluation Years

1996



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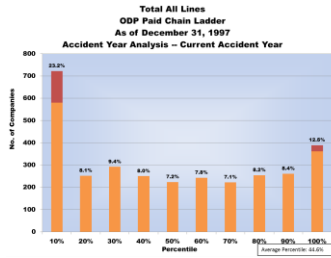
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Evaluation Years

1997



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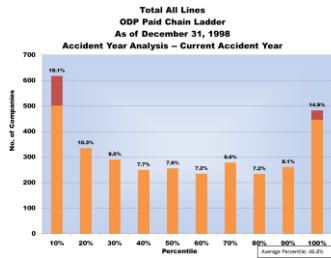
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## Comparison of Evaluation Years

1998



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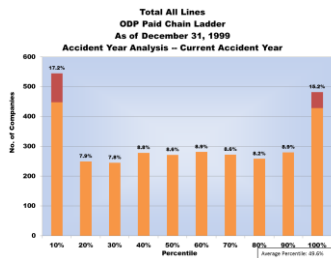
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## Comparison of Evaluation Years

1999



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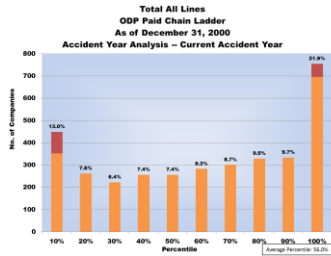
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Evaluation Years

2000



Milliman

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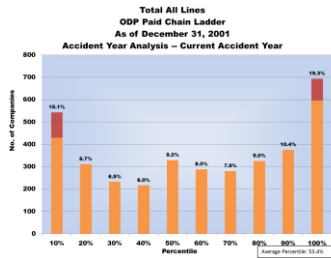
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## Comparison of Evaluation Years

2001



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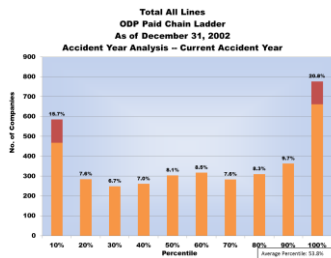
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## Comparison of Evaluation Years

2002



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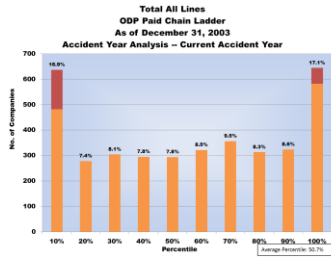
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Evaluation Years

2003



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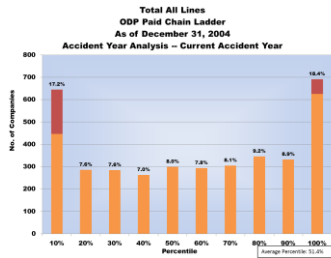
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## Comparison of Evaluation Years

2004



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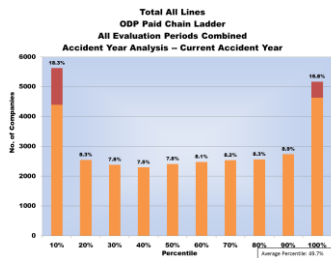
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## Comparison of Evaluation Years

ALL



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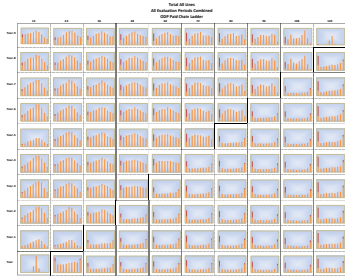
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Incrementals



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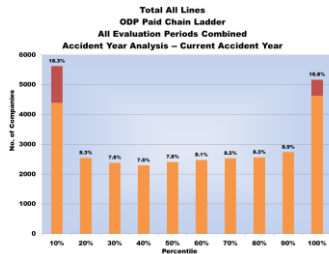
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## Comparison of Models

ODP  
Pd CL



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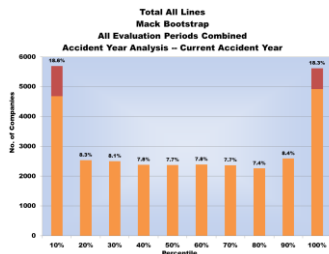
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## Comparison of Models

Mack  
Pd CL



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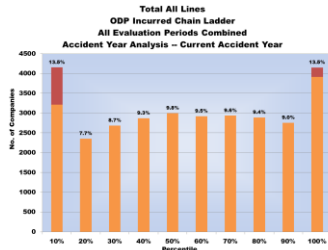
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Models

ODP  
Inc CL



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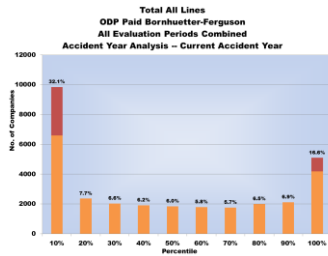
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## Comparison of Models

ODP  
Pd BF



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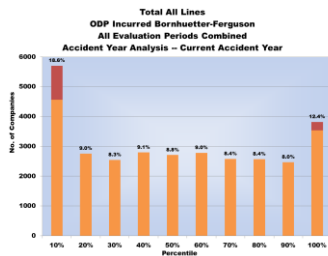
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## Comparison of Models

ODP  
Inc BF



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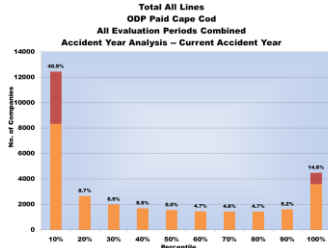
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Comparison of Models

ODP  
Pd CC



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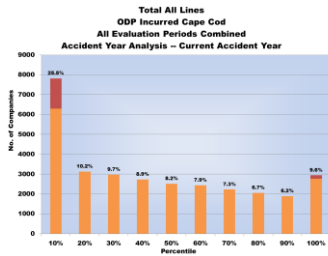
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## Comparison of Models

ODP  
Inc CC



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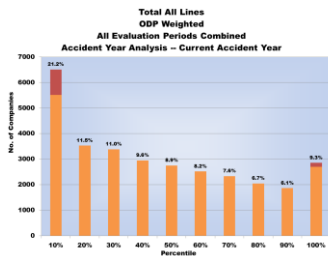
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## Comparison of Models

ODP  
Wgtd



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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates




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## Leong, Wang & Chen

- **Systemic Risk Distribution Method**
    - Multiply each simulated bootstrap result by a "systemic" factor
  - **Wang Transform Adjustment**
    - Increase the variability of the original unpaid loss distribution
    - Shift the percentiles to account for bias in methods over time
    - Relies on a parameter "Lambda" targeting an ideal histogram
- Assumes Model Risk is Systemic!**  
**Based on Hindsight only!**

Leong, Jessica (Weng Kah), Shaun Wang, and Han Chen, "Back-Testing the ODP Bootstrap of the Paid Chain-Ladder Model with Actual Historical Claims Data," CAS E-Forum, Summer 2012, 1-34



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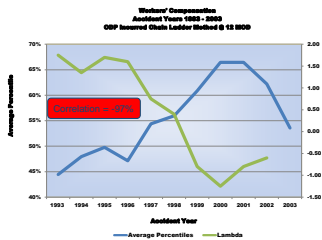
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## Leong, Wang & Chen



Leong, Jessica (Weng Kah), Shaun Wang, and Han Chen, "Back-Testing the ODP Bootstrap of the Paid Chain-Ladder Model with Actual Historical Claims Data," CAS E-Forum, Summer 2012, 1-34



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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## HDR Adjustment

- Shift distribution by multiplying unpaid claim estimates by the HDR
- Coefficient of variation unchanged
- Additive shift – will not address variance
- Hindsight adjustment, but we are not advocating, just testing how much bias vs. not enough variance

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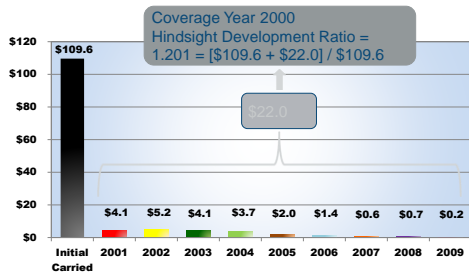
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## Example – Coverage Year 2000 (\$B)



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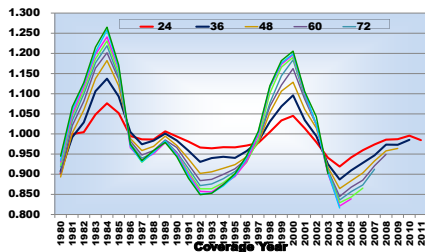
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## HDR by Evaluation Month



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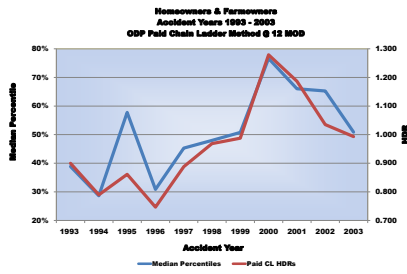
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## HDRs vs. Median Percentiles



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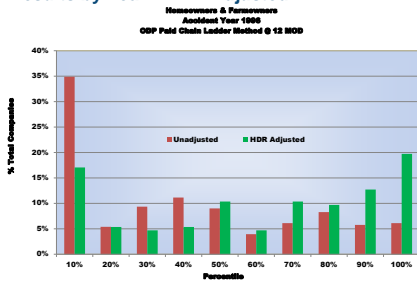
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## Results by Year – HDR Adjusted



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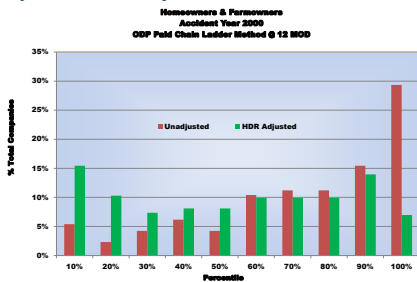
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## Results by Year – HDR Adjusted



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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates



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## Conclusions

- **Goal of Ideal Histogram Unrealized by Paid CL Bootstrap**
  - Both ODP Bootstrap and Mack Bootstrap
  - Confirms Other Research
- **Other ODP Bootstraps – Much Closer to Theoretical Ideal**
  - Milliman Incurred models different (Shapland Monograph)
  - Bornhuetter-Ferguson and Cape Cod models
- **Cyclical Bias in Reserve Distributions – Paid and Incurred**
  - Consistent with Deterministic Projections

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## Conclusions

- **“Corrections” to Other ODP Models may be Unnecessary**
- **Addressing Model Risk is very important**
  - Can’t “blindly” accept model results
  - Use diagnostics to assess model strengths / weaknesses
  - Implications for weighting
  - Still need to address systemic risks
- **Guidelines (i.e., benchmarks) to Assess Results**
  - Based on hindsight, but forward looking
  - Correlations
- **Distributions by LOB and Premium**

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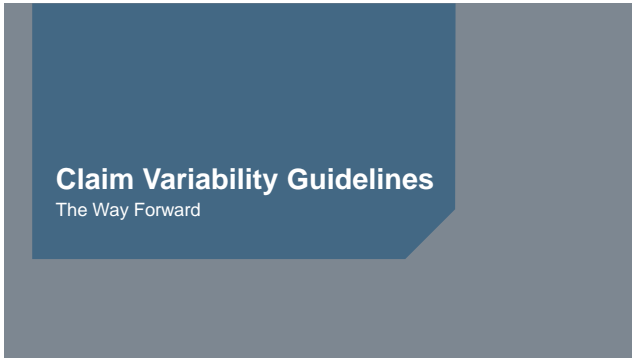
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates



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## Claim Variability Guidelines

Types of Benchmarks

- 1 Loss Development Patterns
- 2 Unpaid Claim Distributions
- 3 Correlation Between Segments

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## Claim Variability Guidelines

Loss Development Patterns

- Back-testing output includes VWA factors for all paid data triangles
- Back-testing output includes VWA factors for simulated paid data
- Actual incurred data is part of the data set, but output for incurred simulations is not readily available
- By Schedule P Line of Business, a "distribution" of the patterns were created for both actual and simulated data

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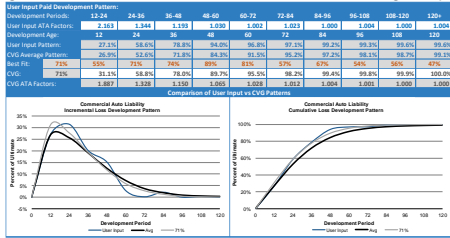
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Claim Variability Guidelines

### Loss Development Patterns

- As an example of how you might use this information, suppose you are analyzing Commercial Auto data and have selected the following LDF pattern:



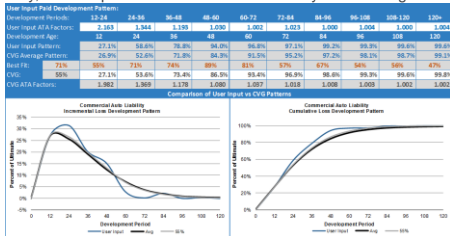
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## Claim Variability Guidelines

### Loss Development Patterns

- Overall the 71<sup>st</sup> percentile fit the best, but this varies by development age. Alternatively, the 55<sup>th</sup> percentile fits better in the early and later ages:



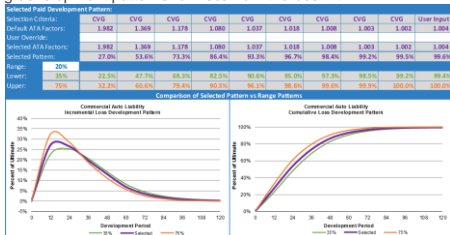
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## Claim Variability Guidelines

### Loss Development Patterns

- To develop a range, you could then calculate new unpaid claim estimates by selecting development patterns +/- 20% from the best fit:



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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Claim Variability Guidelines

### Unpaid Claim Distributions

- For each Schedule P LOB, the back-testing results contain thousands of simulated distributions for companies of all different sizes
- Regression models were used to fit the distributions by premium volume for each of the Acc Yr, Cal Yr, Cal Yr Runoff, and Loss Ratio distributions
- Fitted results were smoothed to be consistent between distribution types and to conform with statistical properties

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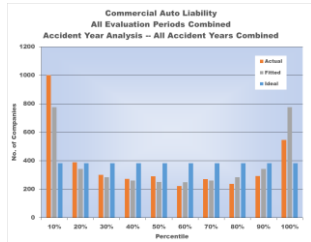
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## Claim Variability Guidelines

### Unpaid Claim Distributions

- Variance Adjustment Factors can be used to correct for back-testing results
- Separate variance adjustments factors for Loss Ratio distributions
- For example, this is the Acc Yr adjustment for Commercial Auto



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## Claim Variability Guidelines

### Unpaid Claim Distributions

- The regression model adjusts assumptions to fit statistical properties.
- For example, consider smaller vs larger number of exposures:

Small Insurer						Large Insurer					
Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev	CoV	Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev	CoV
2008	5,115	75.3%	17	63	369.8%	2008	40,918	75.3%	131	794	216.4%
2009	5,302	77.1%	42	112	268.7%	2009	42,415	77.1%	323	464	143.5%
2010	5,427	79.4%	95	203	213.1%	2010	43,419	79.4%	735	838	114.0%
2011	5,508	81.7%	196	308	157.3%	2011	44,064	81.7%	1,516	1,223	80.6%
2012	5,668	82.5%	404	498	123.4%	2012	45,343	82.5%	3,124	2,067	66.2%
2013	5,907	82.0%	820	737	89.9%	2013	47,256	82.0%	6,344	3,409	53.7%
2014	6,277	79.2%	1,532	1,019	65.5%	2014	50,215	79.2%	11,850	5,250	44.3%
2015	6,780	74.9%	2,719	1,640	60.3%	2015	54,236	74.9%	21,034	8,442	40.1%
2016	7,214	73.8%	4,278	2,401	56.1%	2016	57,710	73.8%	33,093	12,465	37.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,197</b>	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>10,102</b>	<b>3,654</b>	<b>36.2%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>425,576</b>	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>78,152</b>	<b>17,681</b>	<b>22.6%</b>

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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Claim Variability Guidelines Unpaid Claim Distributions

- The regression model allows for other customizations.
- For example, consider a faster development pattern:

Average Development      Faster Development

Commercial Auto Liability Accident Year Guidelines (US\$ 000's)					Commercial Auto Liability Accident Year Guidelines (US\$ 000's)						
Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev	CoV	Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev	CoV
2008	20,459	75.3%	66	157	238.9%	2008	20,459	75.3%	2	25	1506.9%
2009	21,207	77.1%	162	263	161.9%	2009	21,207	77.1%	18	79	430.9%
2010	21,709	79.4%	369	475	128.6%	2010	21,709	79.4%	69	173	249.2%
2011	22,032	81.7%	762	700	91.9%	2011	22,032	81.7%	275	360	131.0%
2012	22,671	82.5%	1,570	1,171	74.6%	2012	22,671	82.5%	794	721	90.8%
2013	23,628	82.0%	3,188	1,882	59.0%	2013	23,628	82.0%	2,029	1,320	65.0%
2014	25,108	79.2%	5,954	2,832	47.6%	2014	25,108	79.2%	4,481	2,227	49.7%
2015	27,118	74.9%	10,568	4,556	43.1%	2015	27,118	74.9%	8,926	3,945	44.2%
2016	28,855	73.8%	16,627	6,715	40.4%	2016	28,855	73.8%	15,589	6,351	40.7%
Total	212,788	78.3%	39,266	9,666	24.6%	Total	212,788	78.3%	32,182	8,202	25.5%

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## Claim Variability Guidelines Unpaid Claim Distributions

- The regression model accommodates international use.
- For example, consider a European insurer with the same development pattern:

US Insurer      European Insurer

Commercial Auto Liability Accident Year Guidelines (US\$ 000's)					Commercial Auto Liability Accident Year Guidelines (€ 000's)						
Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev	CoV	Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev	CoV
2008	20,459	75.3%	66	157	238.9%	2008	20,459	75.3%	66	161	244.5%
2009	21,207	77.1%	162	263	161.9%	2009	21,207	77.1%	163	271	166.4%
2010	21,709	79.4%	369	475	128.6%	2010	21,709	79.4%	370	489	132.2%
2011	22,032	81.7%	762	700	91.9%	2011	22,032	81.7%	763	722	94.7%
2012	22,671	82.5%	1,570	1,171	74.6%	2012	22,671	82.5%	1,572	1,205	76.6%
2013	23,628	82.0%	3,188	1,882	59.0%	2013	23,628	82.0%	3,191	1,926	60.4%
2014	25,108	79.2%	5,954	2,832	47.6%	2014	25,108	79.2%	5,961	2,884	48.4%
2015	27,118	74.9%	10,568	4,556	43.1%	2015	27,118	74.9%	10,581	4,638	43.8%
2016	28,855	73.8%	16,627	6,715	40.4%	2016	28,855	73.8%	16,647	6,834	41.1%
Total	212,788	78.3%	39,266	9,666	24.6%	Total	212,788	78.3%	39,313	9,670	25.1%

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## Claim Variability Guidelines Unpaid Claim Distributions

- The regression model includes four different types of results:

Acc Yr	Commercial Auto Liability Calendar Year Guidelines (US\$ 000's)					Cal Yr	Commercial Auto Liability Calendar Year Guidelines (US\$ 000's)				
	Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev		CoV	Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean
2008	20,459	75.3%	66	157	238.9%	2007	21,788	78.3%	16,042	4,770	29.7%
2009	21,207	77.1%	162	263	161.9%	2008	23,170	78.8%	16,086	3,695	25.2%
2010	21,709	79.4%	369	475	128.6%	2009	21,212	78.8%	6,108	3,685	61.4%
2011	22,032	81.7%	762	700	91.9%	2010	19,812	78.7%	3,387	1,941	58.2%
2012	22,671	82.5%	1,570	1,171	74.6%	2011	17,380	79.7%	1,706	1,274	74.3%
2013	23,628	82.0%	3,188	1,882	59.0%	2012	19,400	77.2%	879	882	100.4%
2014	25,108	79.2%	5,954	2,832	47.6%	2013	18,281	75.9%	426	109	137.1%
2015	27,118	74.9%	10,568	4,556	43.1%	2014	18,973	74.3%	228	324	158.8%
2016	28,855	73.8%	16,627	6,715	40.4%	2015	28,425	73.8%	98	227	230.2%
Total	212,788	78.3%	39,266	9,666	24.6%	Total	18,368	6.6%	241%		

Cal Yr	Commercial Auto Liability Calendar Year Guidelines (US\$ 000's)					Loss Ratio	Commercial Auto Liability Loss Ratio Guidelines (US\$ 000's)				
	Acc Yr	Premium	L/R	Mean	Std Dev		CoV	Acc Yr	Premium	Mean	Std Dev
2008	21,218	78.3%	10,206	8,666	24.6%	2007	21,789	77.8%	10.2%	14.4%	
2009	22,139	78.6%	24,224	6,788	29.2%	2008	20,459	75.3%	10.7%	14.2%	
2010	17,122	78.8%	11,620	4,679	36.3%	2009	21,207	77.1%	11.4%	14.8%	
2011	14,612	78.7%	1,660	3,566	41.8%	2010	21,709	79.4%	12.2%	15.3%	
2012	17,380	79.2%	1,353	2,031	60.6%	2011	22,032	81.7%	13.1%	14.9%	
2013	19,400	77.2%	1,437	1,381	89.4%	2012	22,671	82.5%	13.9%	16.6%	
2014	18,081	75.9%	758	811	109.6%	2013	23,628	82.0%	13.5%	16.4%	
2015	18,973	74.9%	328	480	145.3%	2014	25,108	79.2%	13.6%	17.2%	
2016	28,855	73.8%	99	227	230.2%	2015	27,118	74.9%	11.8%	18.4%	
Total	212,788	78.3%	39,266	9,666	24.6%	Total	28,425	73.8%	15.4%	30.9%	

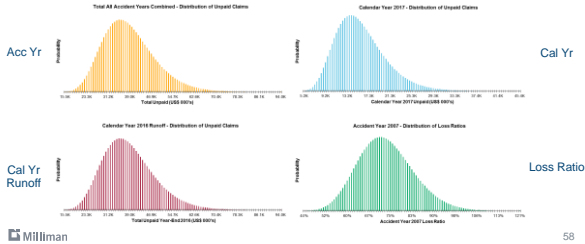
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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Claim Variability Guidelines Unpaid Claim Distributions

- In Excel, these are easy to graph:



## Claim Variability Guidelines Correlation Between Segments

- Back-testing output includes correlation statistics between all pairs of LOBs within a company (i.e., if there was more than one 'complete' LOB)
- Output includes both paid and incurred, before and after optimal hetero adjustments
- The mean and std dev (unweighted and weighted) for all specific pairs (i.e., between two specific LOBs) was measured

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## Claim Variability Guidelines Correlation Between Segments

- For example, consider the weighted results for 5 LOBs using 1996 data:

	Means					Standard Deviations					Counts				
	MPL-O	HO	WC	CA	PPA	MPL-O	HO	WC	CA	PPA	MPL-O	HO	WC	CA	PPA
MPL-O	100%	0.0%	-16.2%	5.9%	-1.7%	14.0%	14.0%	18.8%	18.6%	18.6%	57	62	59	48	48
HO	0.0%	100%	5.5%	9.3%	16.7%	14.0%	23.0%	22.9%	22.9%	22.9%	57	618	757	851	851
WC	-16.2%	5.5%	100%	17.3%	18.9%	14.0%	23.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	62	618	688	688	570
CA	5.9%	9.3%	17.3%	100%	19.3%	18.8%	22.9%	26.0%	27.1%	27.1%	59	757	688	688	754
PPA	-1.7%	16.7%	18.9%	19.3%	100%	18.6%	22.9%	26.0%	27.1%	27.1%	48	851	570	784	784

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# Reserve Variability: Benchmarking Unpaid Claim Estimates

## Claim Variability Guidelines

Other Potential Uses

- Creating aggregate distributions for guidelines at the company level
- Calculating average durations for future cash flows
- Calculating reserve risk margins based on the expected unpaid claim runoff
- Assessing the variance parameter for a priori loss ratio assumptions in models
- Other uses which are only limited by your imagination

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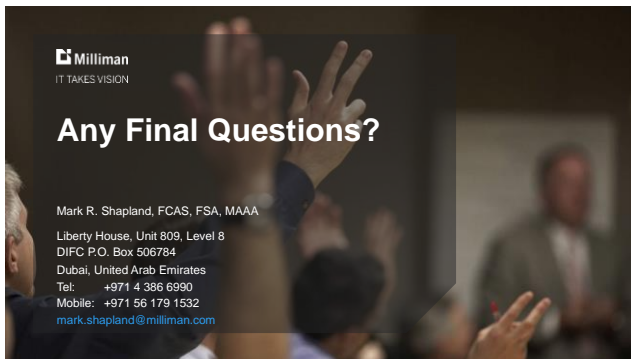
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