



Report Card on Reserve Adequacy — A+ or C-

2012 Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar

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TOWERS WATSON 

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Ground-Rules for our Discussion

Including Disclaimers

- This presentation is prepared and intended for general educational and discussion purposes only.
- It should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional advisors.
- The views and opinions expressed by the panelists and moderator may or may not be reflective of their own personal views and opinions; the views and opinions are not expressions of position by their employers.
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- Contribute.

Agenda

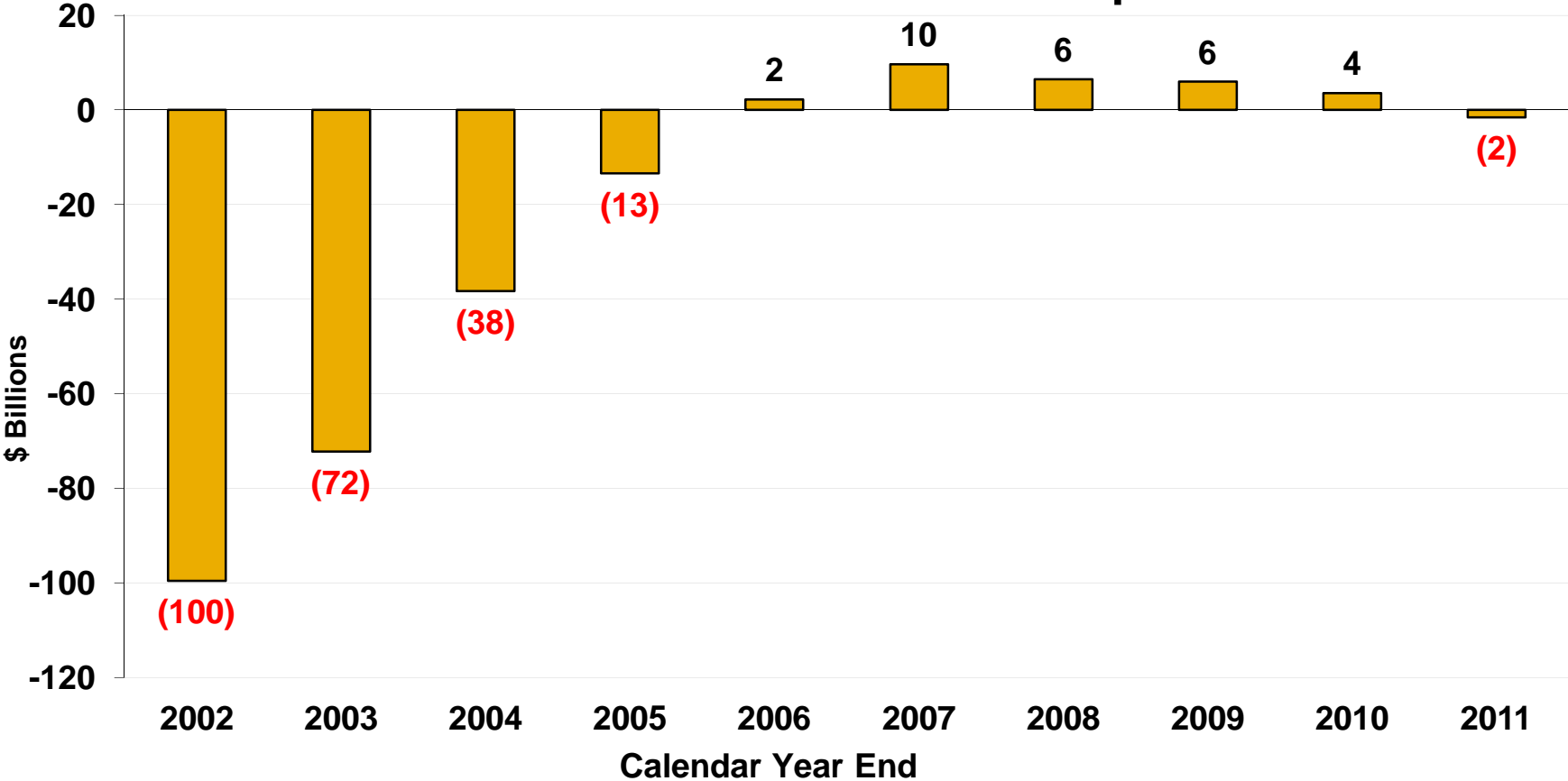
- Views on current industry reserve adequacy
- Observations by line
- Potential influences on reserve adequacy
- Where is reserve adequacy going?

Lines reflected in Towers Watson analysis represent approximately 90% of U.S. P/C premium and reserve volume

- Personal lines included:
 - Private passenger auto liability
 - Homeowners
- Commercial lines included:
 - Workers' compensation
 - Commercial auto liability
 - Commercial multi-peril
 - Other liability occurrence
 - Products liability
 - Other liability claims made
 - Medical malpractice
 - Assumed casualty reinsurance
- All U.S. companies filing P/C statutory annual statements
- Loss plus defense and cost containment expense reserves
- Undiscounted
- Data was compiled from SNL
- Analysis is generally performed in aggregate (not by company)
- Analysis is performed as an internal initiative, and not on behalf of any clients

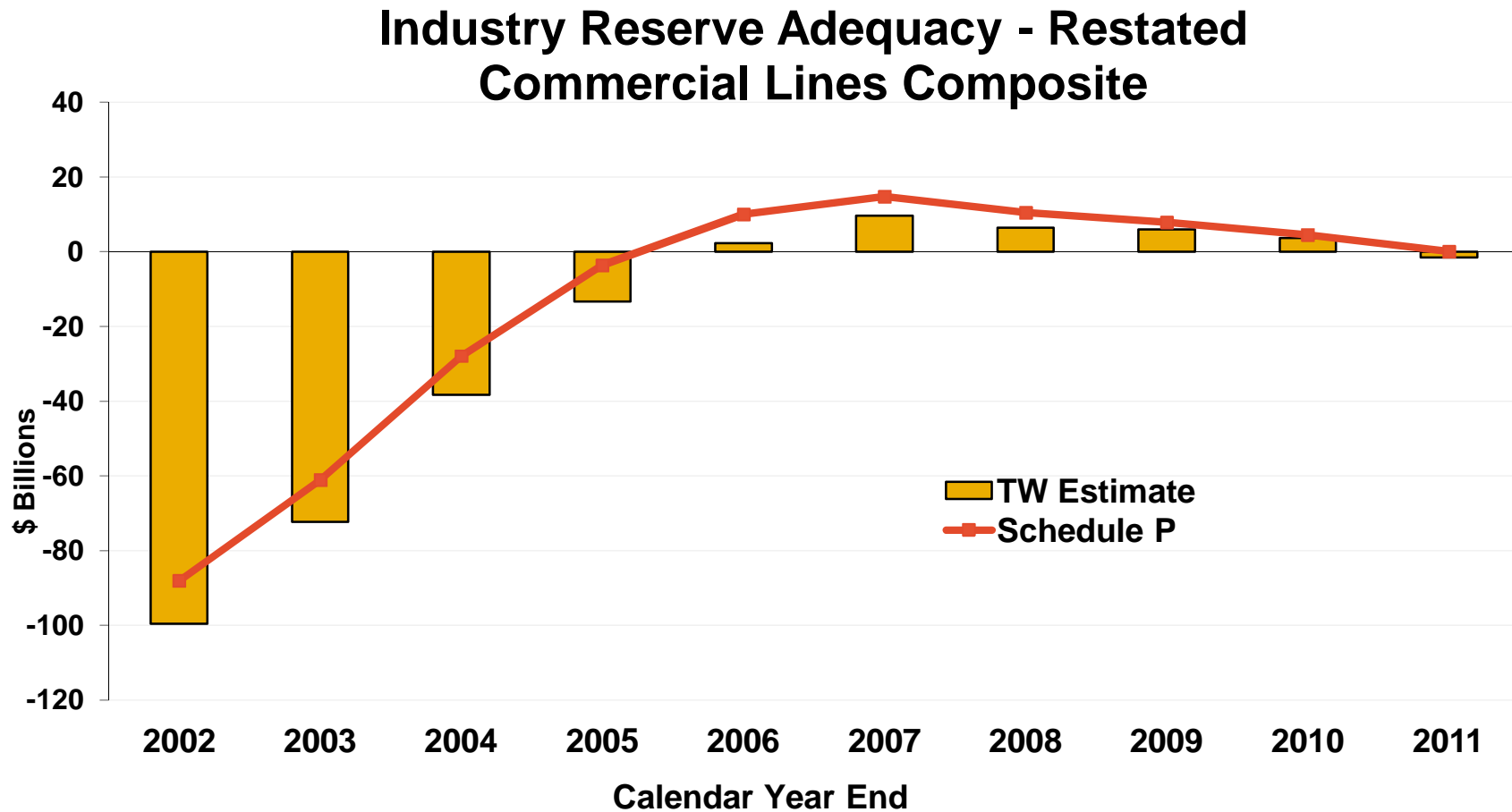
For commercial lines in total, our analysis indicates that reserve adequacy has been declining since 2007

Industry Reserve Adequacy - Restated TW Commercial Lines Composite



Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

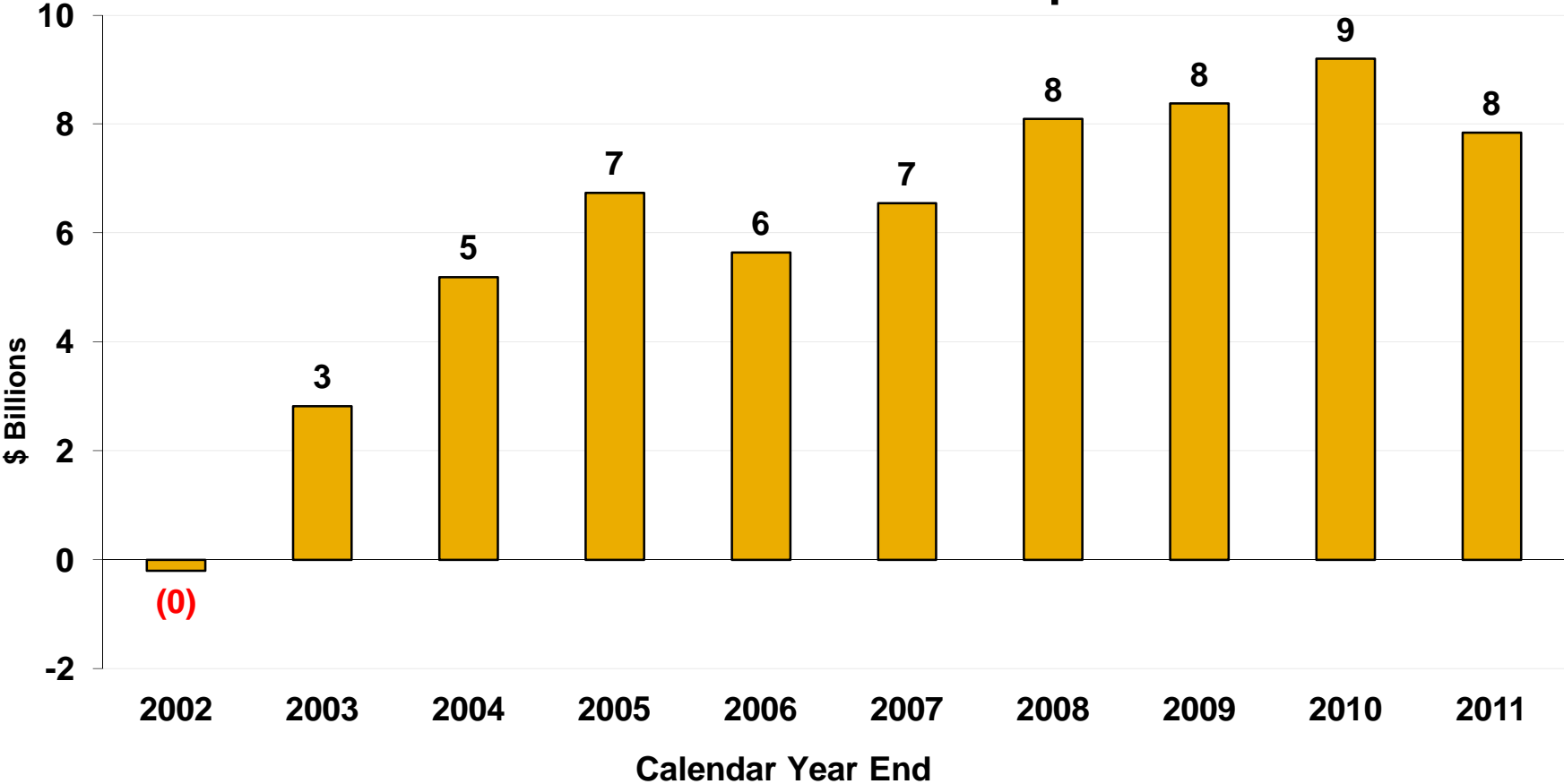
View based on Schedule P shows similar trend



Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

**Our estimate is that personal lines
has been reserved conservatively for many years**

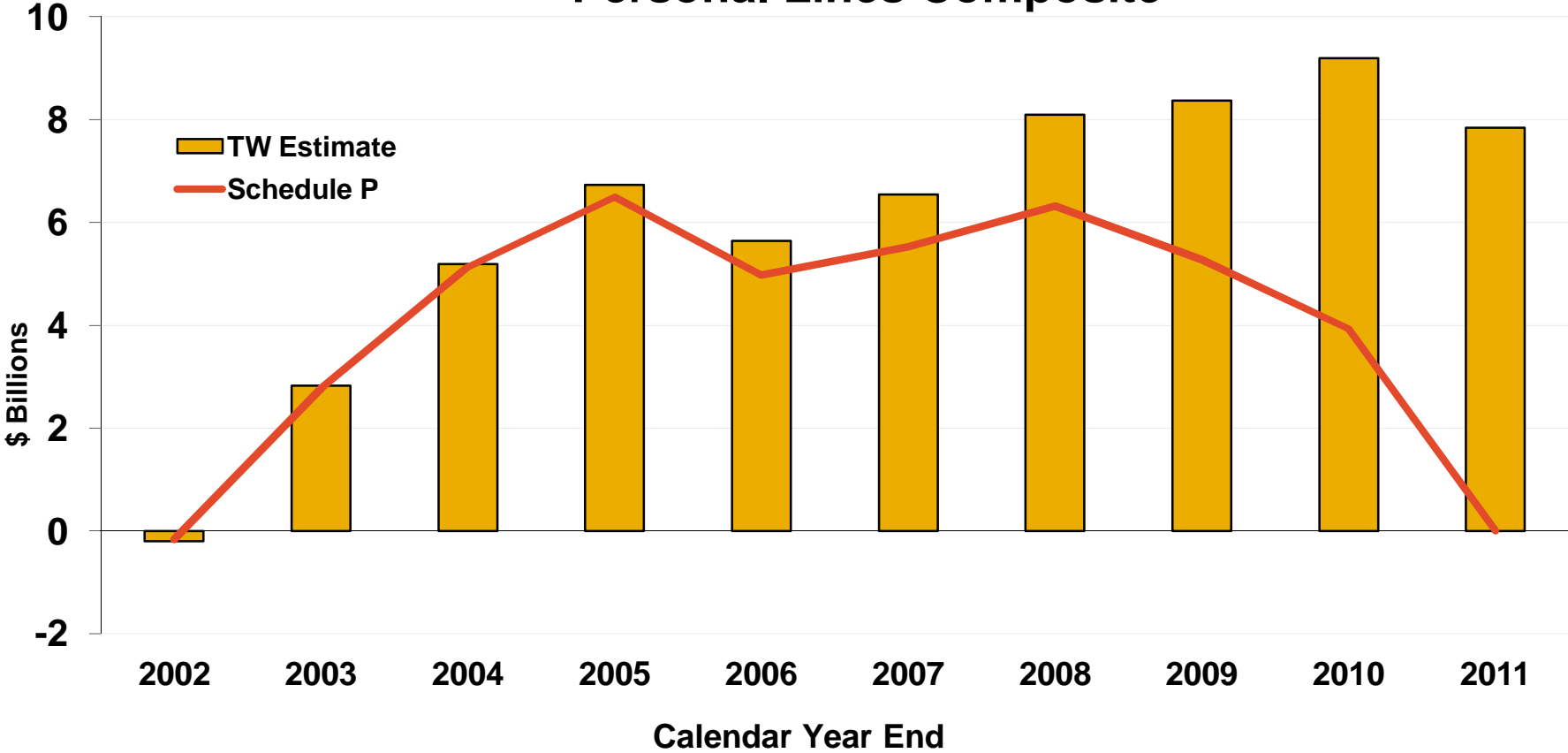
**Industry Reserve Adequacy - Restated
TW Personal Lines Composite**



Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Schedule P hindsight shows that reserves were conservative and we expect that 2011 will be similar

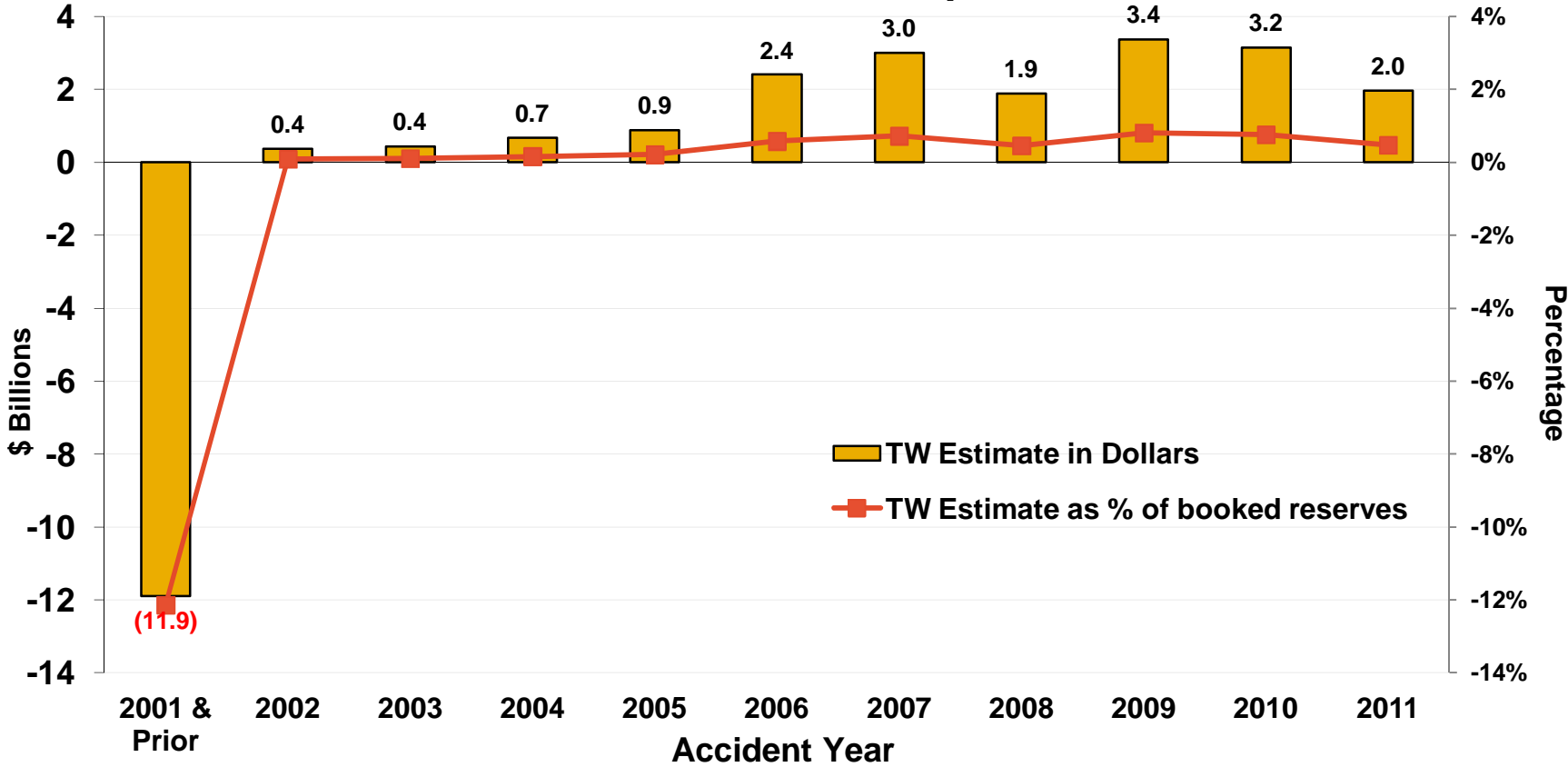
Industry Reserve Adequacy - Restated Personal Lines Composite



Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Current view is that reserves for all recent accident years are slightly conservative overall, with deficiency in the prior years

Industry Reserve Adequacy TW All Lines Composite

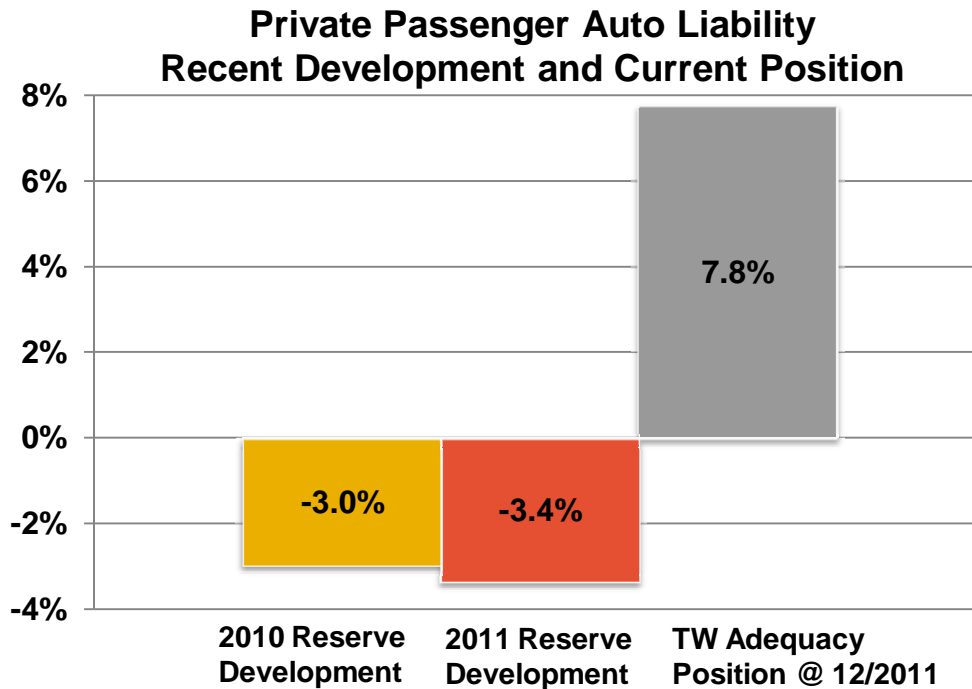


Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Examples of lines viewed as conservatively reserved

- Private passenger auto liability
- Homeowners
- Medical malpractice
- Commercial auto liability
- Other liability occurrence – accident years 2002-2011

We view private passenger auto liability reserves as conservative, and expect further reserve releases

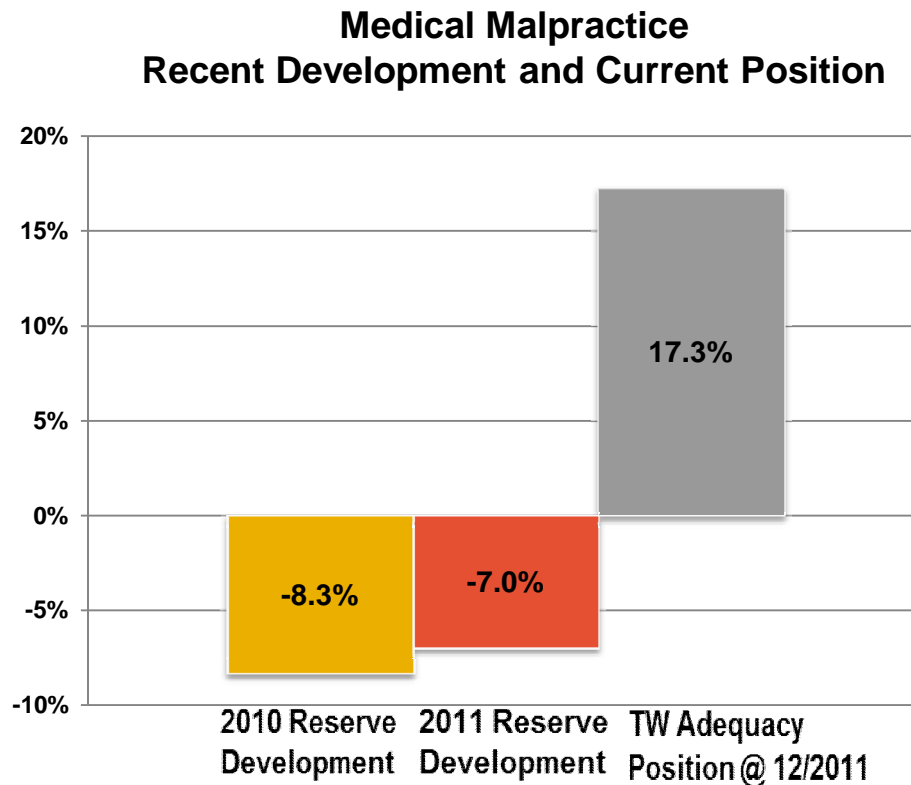


<u>TW Loss Cost Trend Estimates</u>		
	<u>Mid 2010</u>	<u>Mid 2012</u>
AY 2010	+4.1%	+2.5%
AY 2011	+1.7%	+0.1%

- Every accident year since 2001 has developed favorably
- Initial booked margin has been between 0 and 5 points each year
- Some companies don't take credit for anticipated salvage/subrogation
- Loss cost trends have emerged below expectations recently
 - But indications for 2012 severity are less favorable
- Case reporting patterns appear to have accelerated

Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

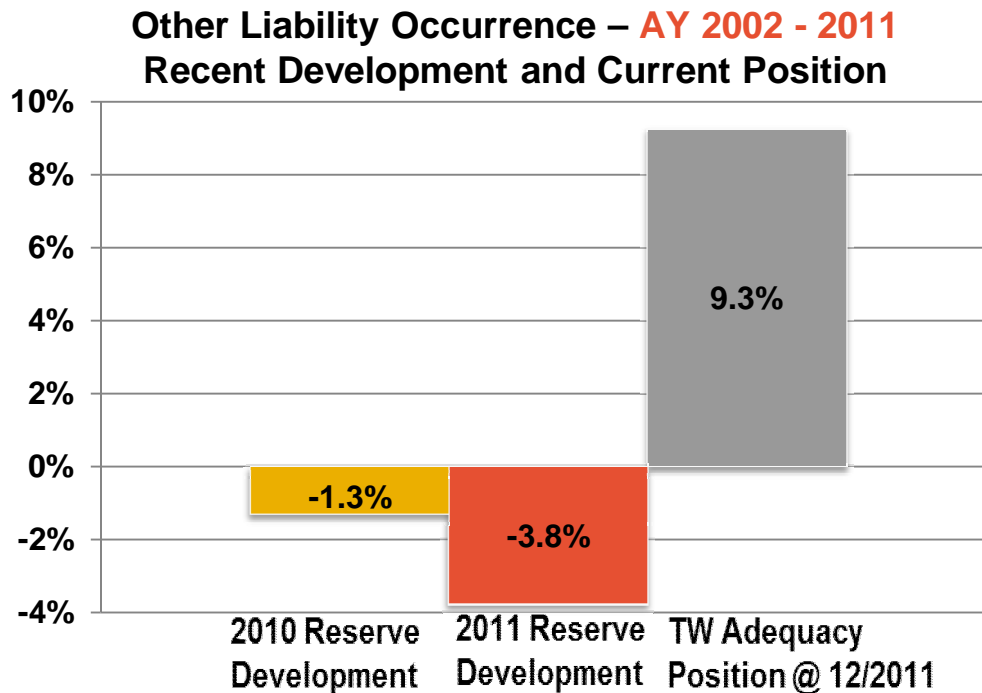
For several years, medical malpractice results have emerged much better than anticipated creating reserve redundancy



- Every accident year since 2003 has developed favorably
- Even older accident years are developing favorably recently
- Tort reform and patient safety efforts improved loss costs
- 2005-2008 reserves were originally set based on less favorable experience for prior years, then emerged much better than anticipated
- 2009 and subsequent AYs still appear to be booked conservatively

Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Other liability occurrence reserves have also been developing favorably for the most recent 10 accident years



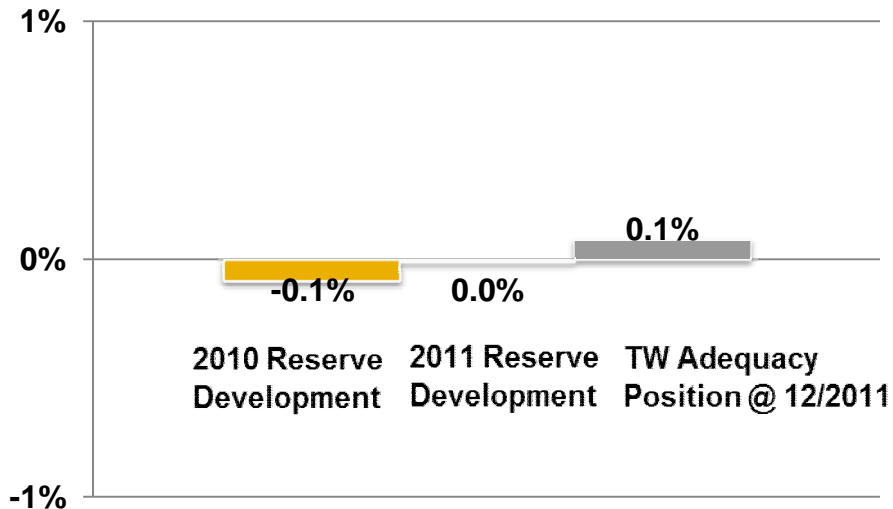
- Accident years 2003 through 2009 have developed favorably
- Loss cost trends have emerged below expectations recently
- Analysis indicates that all accident years back to 2004 are still conservative
- Although 2009-2011 are less conservative than 2006-2008
- Reserves for accident years 2001 and prior are viewed as deficient

TW Loss Cost Trend Estimates		
	<u>Mid 2010</u>	<u>Mid 2012</u>
AY 2010	+6.0%	+4.0%
AY 2011	+6.0%	+4.0%

Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Excluding accident years 2001 and prior, our view is that workers compensation reserves are about right

Workers Compensation – AYs 2002 - 2011
Recent Development and Current Position



<u>TW Loss Cost Trend Estimates</u>		
	<u>Mid 2010</u>	<u>Mid 2012</u>
AY 2010	+4.4%	+3.1%
AY 2011	+4.4%	+2.1%

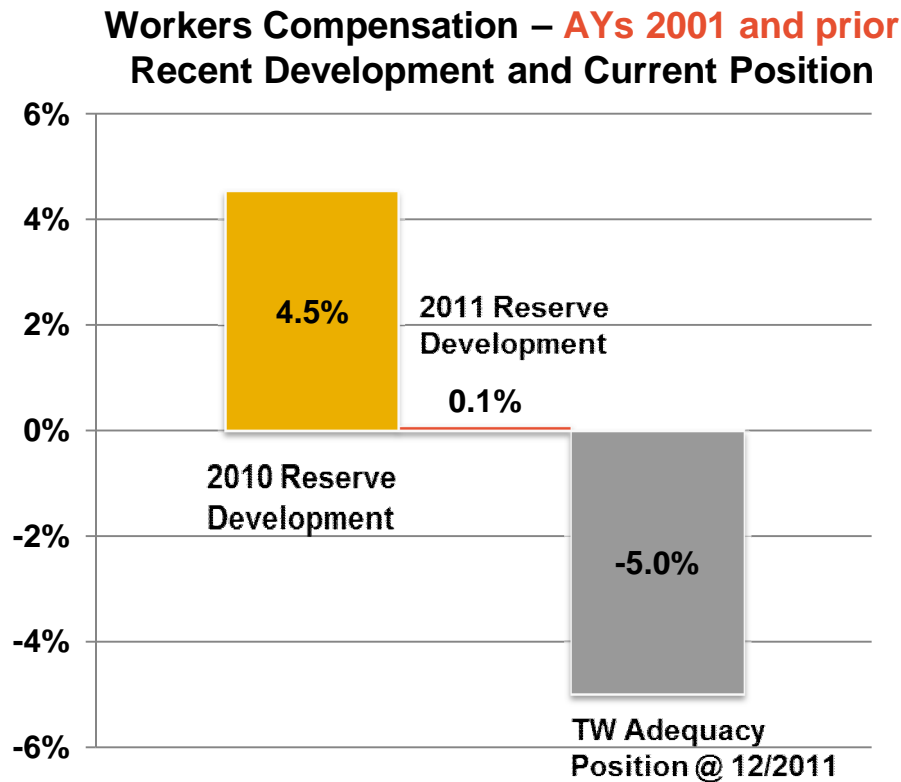
- Accident years 2003 through 2007 have developed favorably, but 2008 through 2010 have developed upward, causing recent overall emergence to be flat
- Loss cost (severity) trend has been better than expected, helping to maintain reserve adequacy,
- Although early read on 2012 emergence is less favorable
- Concern that AY 2011 may be short

Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Examples of lines viewed as optimistically reserved

- Workers comp – accident years 2001 and prior
- Products liability
- Other liability occurrence – accident years 2001 and prior
- Reinsurance B – accident years 2001 and prior

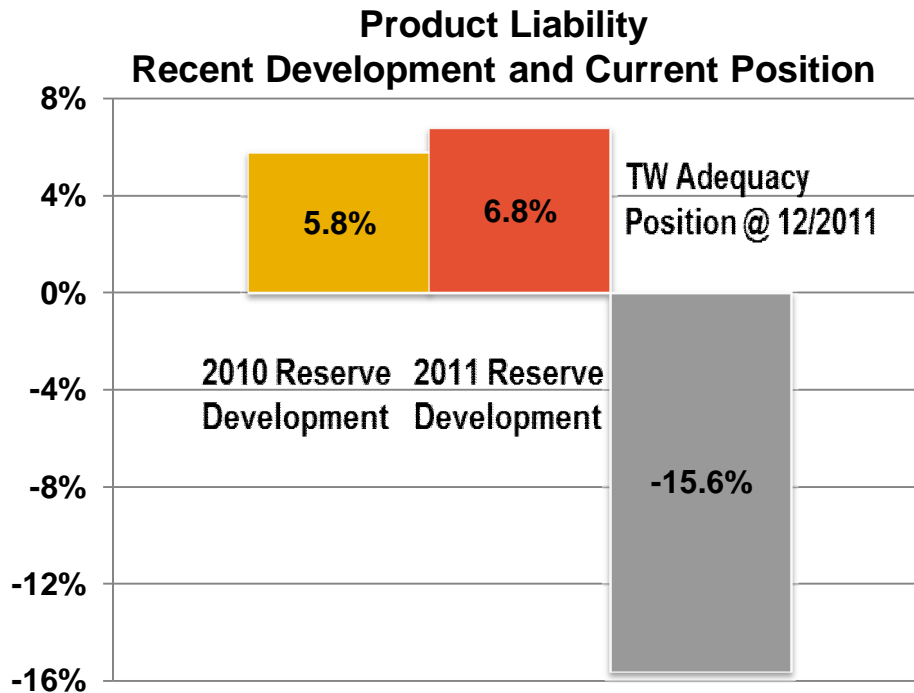
We still have a lingering concern about workers compensation tail development



- Prior years have a long track record of developing upward, even though emergence was flat in 2011
- Potential for an uptick in medical inflation, particularly for elder and end-of life care, is a concern
- Possibility that ever improving mortality experience is not fully reflected in reserve estimates

Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Products liability adverse development has been significant recently



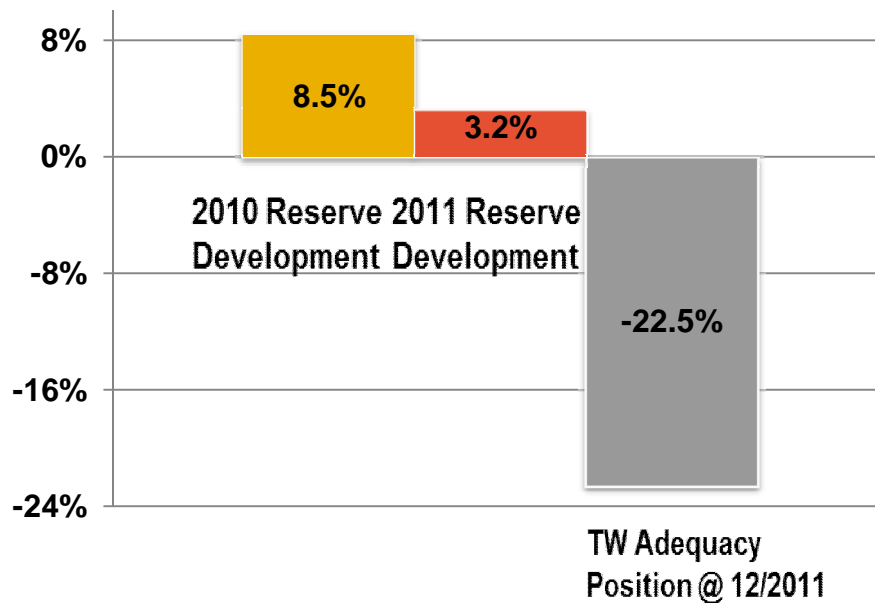
<u>TW Loss Cost Trend Estimates</u>		
	<u>Mid 2010</u>	<u>Mid 2012</u>
AY 2010	+8.0%	+8.0%
AY 2011	+8.0%	+8.0%

- Unfavorable reserve development has accelerated in recent years
- Analysis indicates that all accident years are deficient
 - Approximately 30% of the indicated deficiency is in the latest 10 AY's, 70% in prior years
- A&E emergence has continued
- AY 2011 reserves do not look stronger than AY 2010

Source: SNL 2012, Towers Watson analysis

Ongoing emergence of asbestos and environmental claims drive an indicated deficiency in prior years for other liability occurrence

Other Liability Occurrence – AYs 2001 and prior
Recent Development and Current Position



- Both asbestos and environmental continued the adverse development in 2011
- In addition, there may still be some deficiency in the late 90's through 2001 AYs for non-asbestos and environmental reserves

Does the underwriting cycle lead to a reserving cycle?

- Underwriting cycle is characterized by:
 - Swings in price levels/adequacy
 - Swings in availability/level of capital
 - Swings in coverage terms and conditions
- Examples of coverage terms and conditions that vary through phases of the underwriting cycle:
 - Broadening/narrowing of specific coverage extensions
 - Use/level of deductibles and retentions
 - Use/level of sublimits
 - Coinsurance requirements
 - Insurance to value and use of blanket coverage

Potential effect of underwriting cycle on reserve indications – development patterns

- Development patterns are affected by changing coverage terms
 - Research in the UK, as well as analysis of U.S. RAA data, suggests that development patterns are longer in “soft-market” years characterized by broader coverage terms
 - If shifts in the patterns are not anticipated by the actuary, reserve indications could be understated for soft-market years and overstated for hard-market years
 - Even if shifts are detected, may be a tendency to rely on longer-term averages rather than reacting to recent shifts
- This issue would likely be most material in certain commercial lines characterized by cycles in coverage terms, e.g. general liability, D&O, E&O

Potential effect of underwriting cycle on reserve indications – expected loss ratios

- Expected loss ratio trends may not be properly estimated if price monitoring processes do not capture the full effect of changing terms and conditions
 - Broadening of terms and conditions can in effect be a “price decrease”, or more precisely, an increase in coverage with no associated price increase
 - Effect on reserving is likely to understate expected loss ratios during periods when they are rising/higher, and overstate expected loss ratios during periods when they are falling/lower
- This issue could be material in any lines with significant changes in terms and conditions
 - General liability, D&O, E&O, Property lines

Potential effect of underwriting cycle on selection of carried reserves

- Management is responsible for determining their best estimate of the loss and LAE liabilities
- Might there be more of a tendency for management to challenge actuarial assumptions when reserve estimates are different (higher or lower) than expected?
- Might there be a hesitancy, by management and actuarial, to make significant revisions to prior assumptions or selections without strong evidence?

Why our current view (and the industry's) may be too low

- Will recent soft-market years (2008-2011) emerge similarly to the last cycle (significant adverse emergence)?
 - They have developed downward from initial estimates thus far!
 - Are we missing the boat on a longer tail that is coming?
- The fear of inflation
 - Especially on medical costs (workers comp, liability lines)
 - Unknown effects of health care reform
 - A permanent 1 point increase in annual medical inflation rate is worth \$X billion (not sure what the number is, but it's big!)

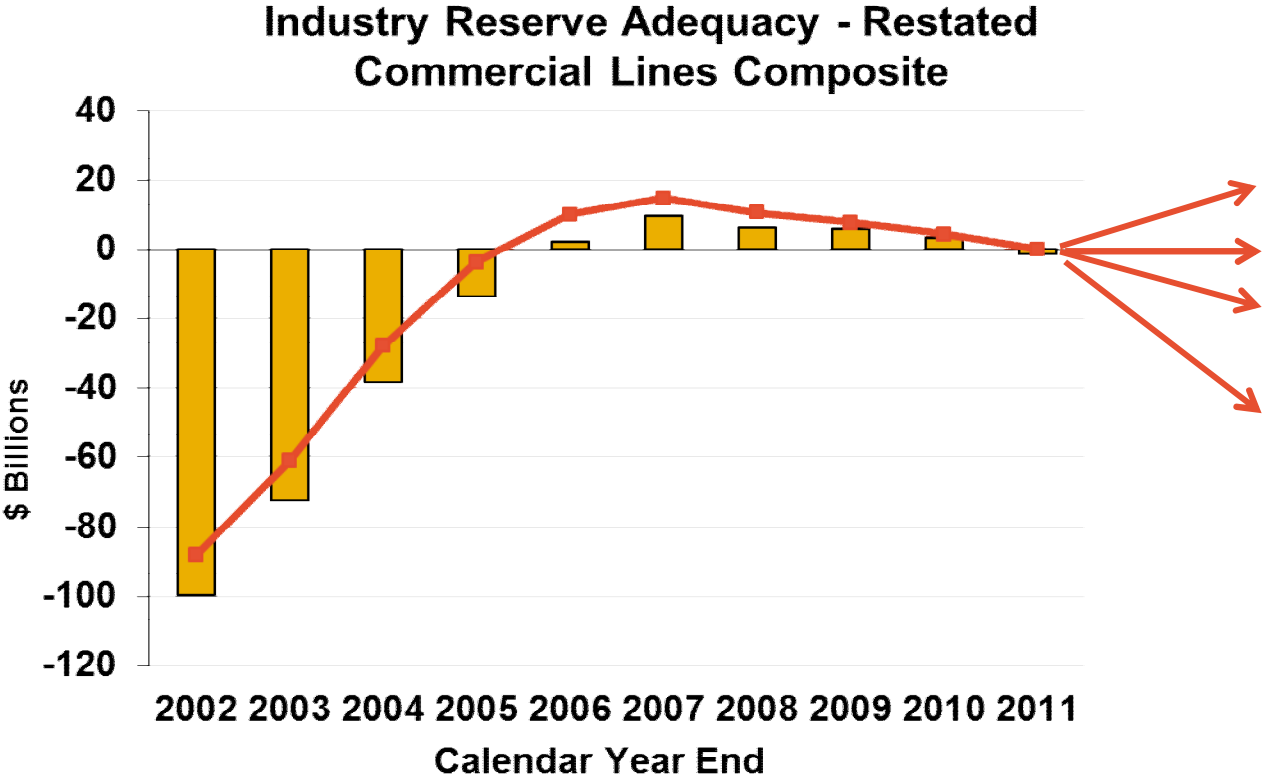
Mitigating factors – are we “better” than we used to be?

- Better price monitoring?
 - Probably, at least in many companies
 - More companies have formal price monitoring processes
 - Effort into and quality of price monitoring has improved
 - More companies are using the price monitoring results in reserving
 - Use of predictive modelling in underwriting may be allowing better price monitoring
- Better reserving technology?
 - Maybe! Better capabilities, tools, diagnostics, speed, but -
 - Is reliance shifting too much to the answer from the tool, at the expense of reasonability checks and business sense?
 - Do we still need to be very careful of the “garbage in – garbage out” concept?

More potential mitigating factors

- Discipline brought about by Sarbanes Oxley?
 - Probably a meaningful improvement for some companies
 - Documentation of assumptions, rationale for decisions, explanation of material changes
- Discipline brought about by statements of actuarial opinion?
 - Probably a meaningful improvement for some companies
 - “Requires” carried reserves to be within reasonable range of indications
 - Although this requirement has been in place for some time
- Coverage terms and conditions appear to have “held up better” in the latest soft market vs. prior cycles
 - Underwriters’ education
 - Underwriters’ use of analytics
 - Focus by senior management

So, given where we've come from and current conditions, where is reserve adequacy going?



Thank you

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