

Agenda – Methodology Review Seminar

14:25 Welcome and Introductory Comments

Mahesh Mistry, Senior Director, Credit Rating Criteria, Research & Analytics

14:30 Benchmarking EMEA Ratings

Timothy Prince, Director, Analytics Ben Diaz-Clegg, Senior Financial Analyst

14:55 Closer Look - Start-Ups & Run-Offs

Timothy Prince, Director, Analytics Alex Rafferty, Associate Director, Analytics

15:15 ESG in Best's Credit Rating Methodology (BCRM)

Victoria Ohorodnyk, Associate Director, Analytics

15:30 IFRS 17 - Transitioning to a New Standard

Anthony Silverman, Director, Credit Rating Criteria, Research & Analytics

Pierro Tournier, Associate Director, Analytics

Pierre Tournier, Associate Director, Analytics

15:50 Q&A Interactive Panel Discussion

AM Best Credit Rating Analysts

16:30 Close





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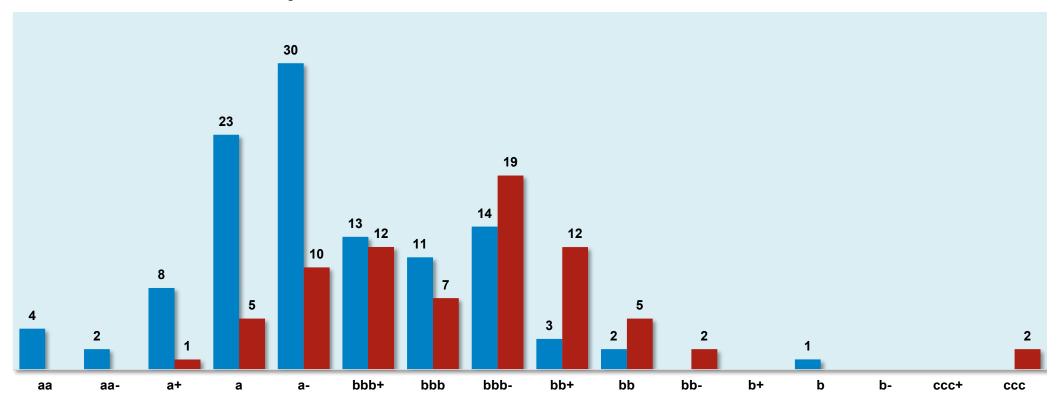
Benchmarking EMEA Ratings

Ben Diaz-Clegg Senior Financial Analyst Timothy Prince Director, Analytics



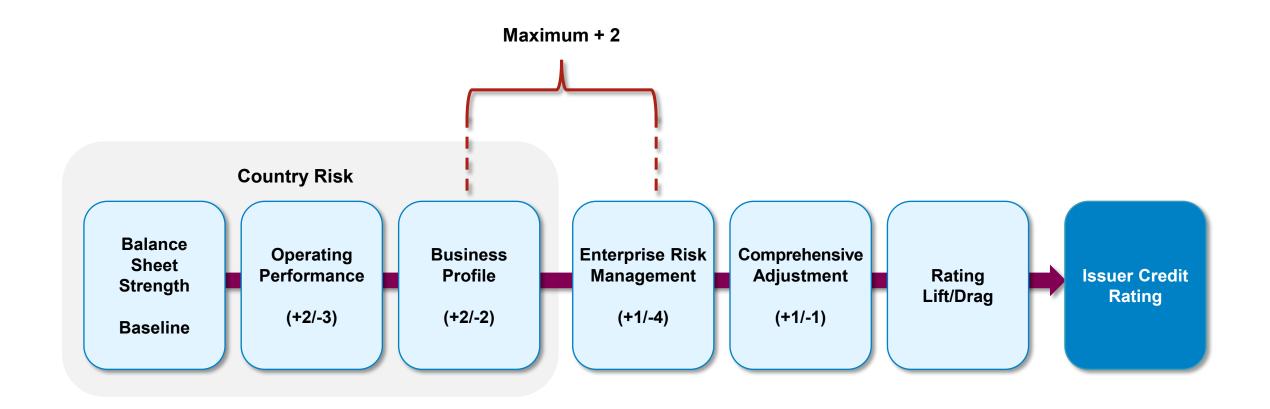
Issuer Credit Ratings EMEA - Count

Europe & London Market Middle East & Africa





AM Best's Rating Process - Recap





AM Best's Rating Process - Recap

Balance Sheet Strength

Baseline

Assessment

Strongest

Very Strong

Strong

Adequate

Weak

Very Weak

Operating Performance (+2/-3)

Assessment

Very Strong +2

Strong +1

Adequate 0

Marginal -1

Weak -2

Very Weak -3

Business Profile (+2/-2)

Assessment

Very Favourable +2

Favourable +1

Neutral 0

Limited -1

Very Limited -2

Enterprise Risk Management

(+1/-4)

Assessment

Very Strong +1

Appropriate 0

Marginal -1

Weak -2

Very Weak -3/4



AM Best's Rating Process - Recap

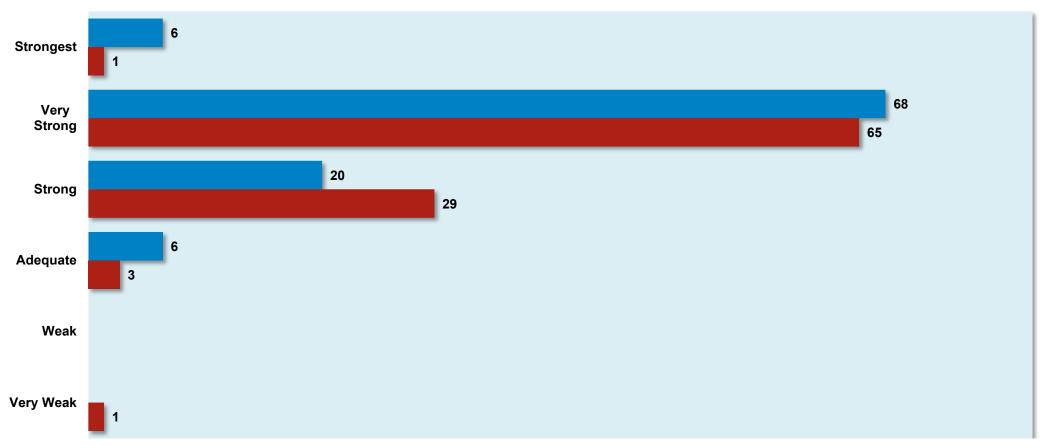
Overall Balance Sheet Strength Assessment

	Country Risk Tier						
ant		CRT-1	CRT-2	CRT-3	CRT-4	CRT-5	
Combined Balance Sheet Assessment (Rating Unit/Holding Company)	Strongest	a+/a	a+/a	a/a-	a-/bbb+	bbb+/bbb	
	Very Strong	a/a-	a/a-	a-/bbb+	bbb+/bbb	bbb/bbb-	
	Strong	a-/bbb+	a-/bbb+	bbb+/bbb/bbb-	bbb/bbb-/bb+	bbb-/bb+/bb	
	Adequate	bbb+/bbb/bbb-	bbb+/bbb/bbb-	bbb-/bb+/bb	bb/bb-	bb/bb-/b+	
	Weak	bb+/bb/bb-	bb+/bb/bb-	bb-/b+/b	b+/b/b-	b/b-/ccc+	
	Very Weak	b+ and below	b+ and below	b- and below	ccc+ and below	ccc and below	



Balance Sheet Strength - Distribution of Assessments (%)

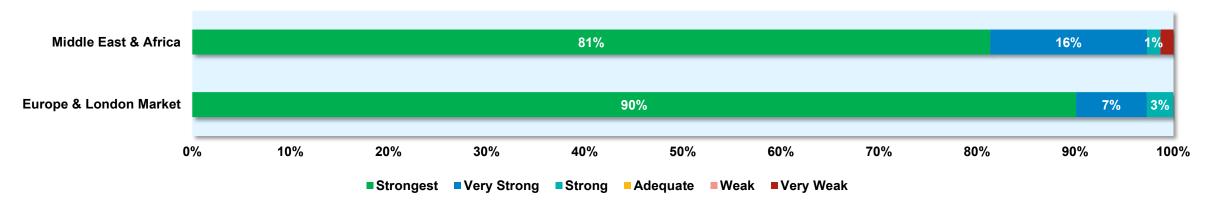


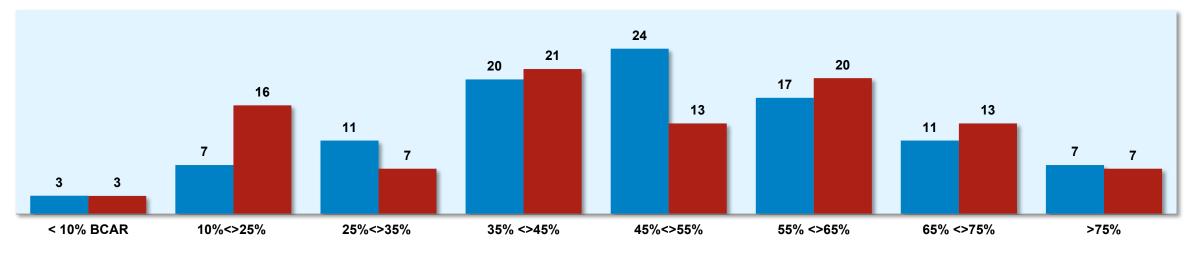




Balance Sheet Strength - Distribution of BCAR Scores (%)

■ Europe & London Market



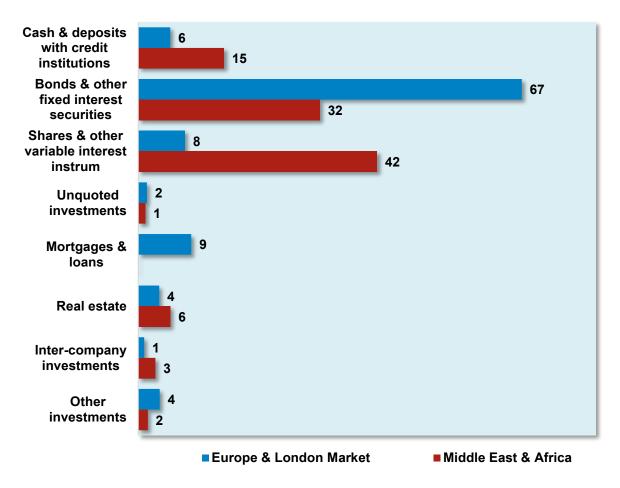




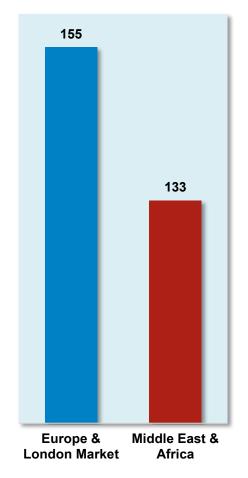
■ Middle East & Africa

Balance Sheet Strength – Distribution of Capital Requirements (%)

Balance Sheet Strength EMEA – Distribution of Investments

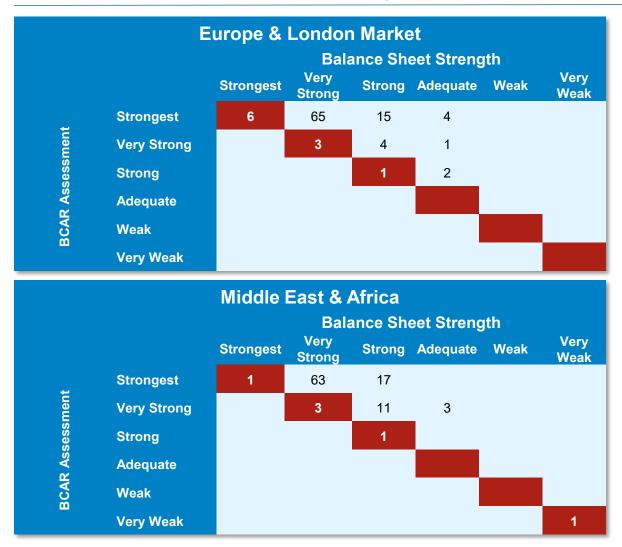


Underwriting Leverage (Gross Written Premium/Shareholders' Funds)





Balance Sheet Strength vs BCAR Distribution (%)



Other Quantitative & Qualitative Considerations

Asset quality / diversification

Stress test

Asset liability matching

Liquidity

Reinsurance quality / appropriateness / dependence

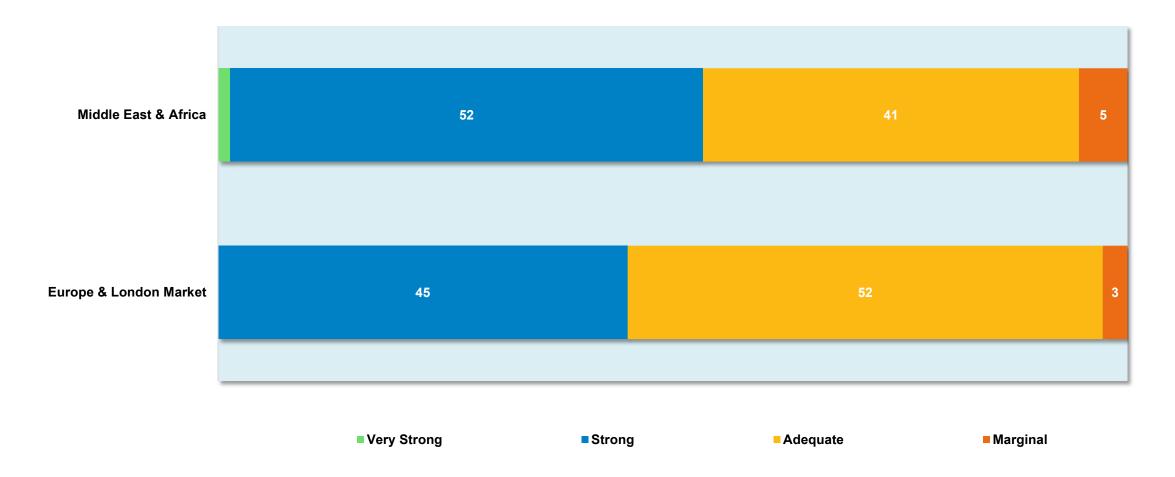
Reserve adequacy

Fungibility of capital

Internal capital model

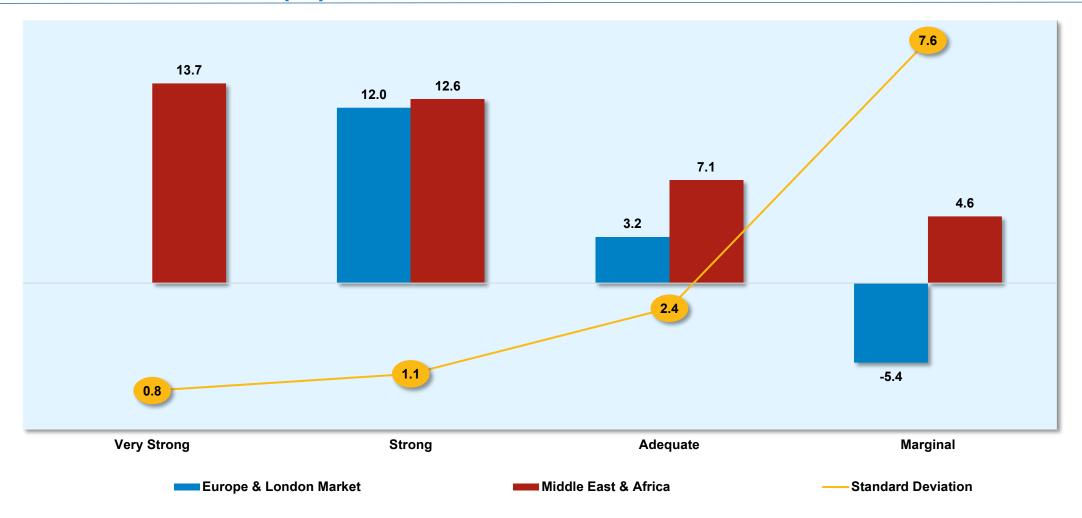


Operating Performance - Distribution of Assessments (%)





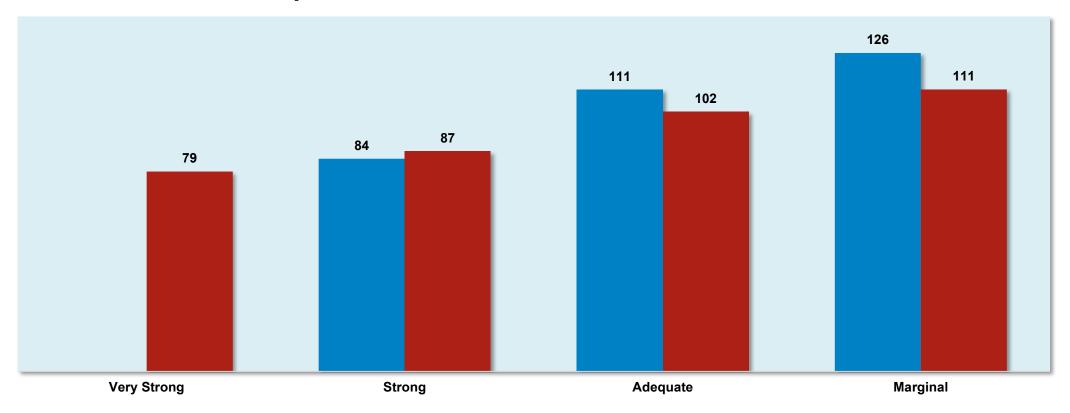
Operating Performance – Five-Year (2017-2021) Return on Equity & Standard Deviation (%)





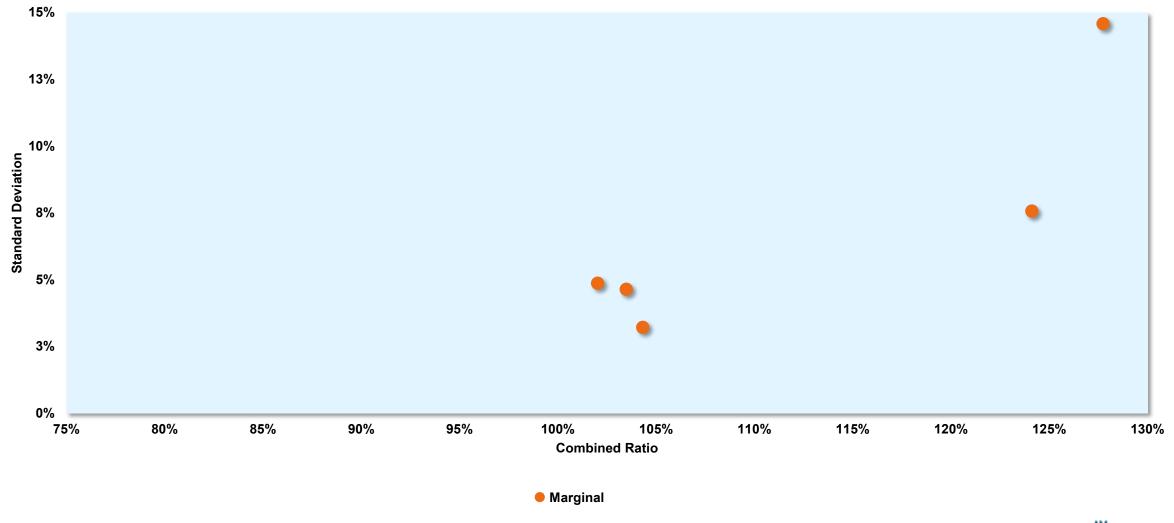
Operating Performance – Five-Year (2017-2021) Average Combined Ratio (%)

Europe & London Market Middle East & Africa



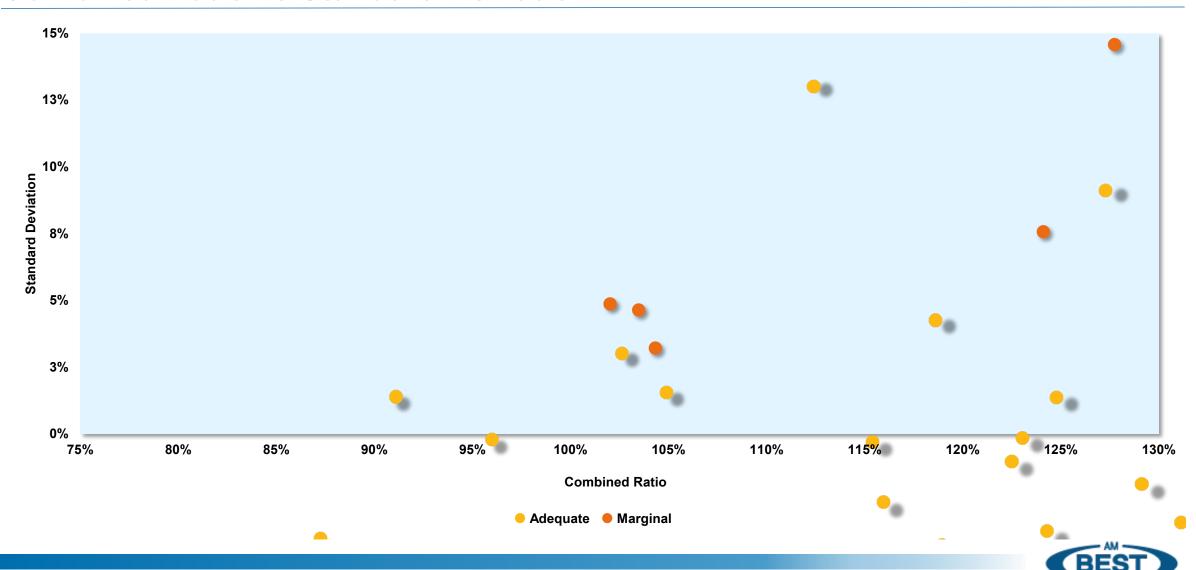


Operating Performance – Five-Year (2017-2021) Combined Ratio vs Standard Deviation

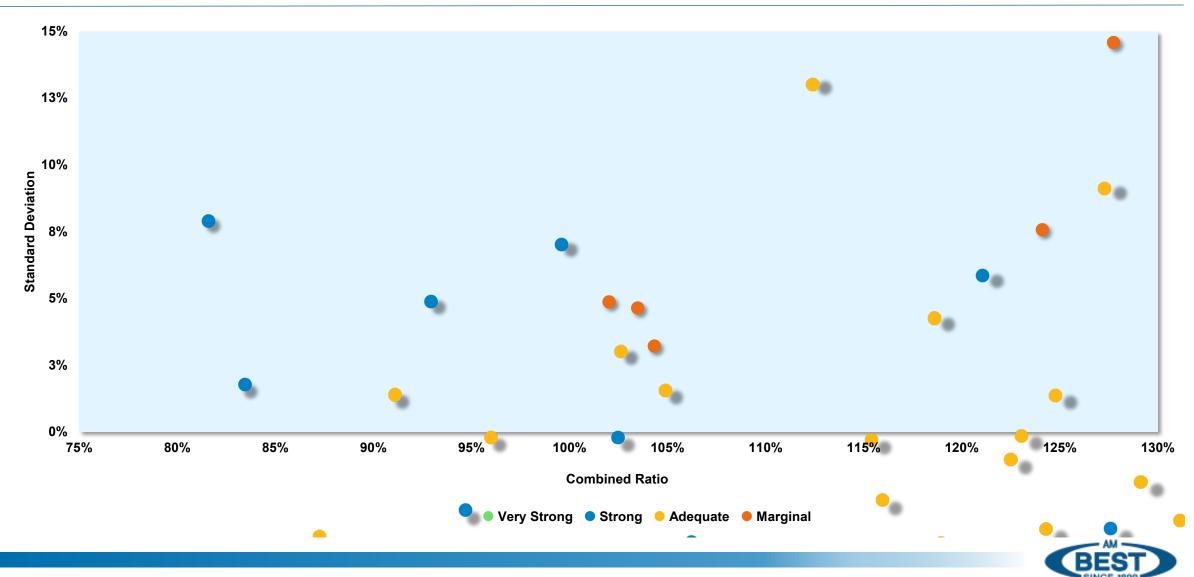




Operating Performance – Five-Year (2017-2021) Combined Ratio vs Standard Deviation

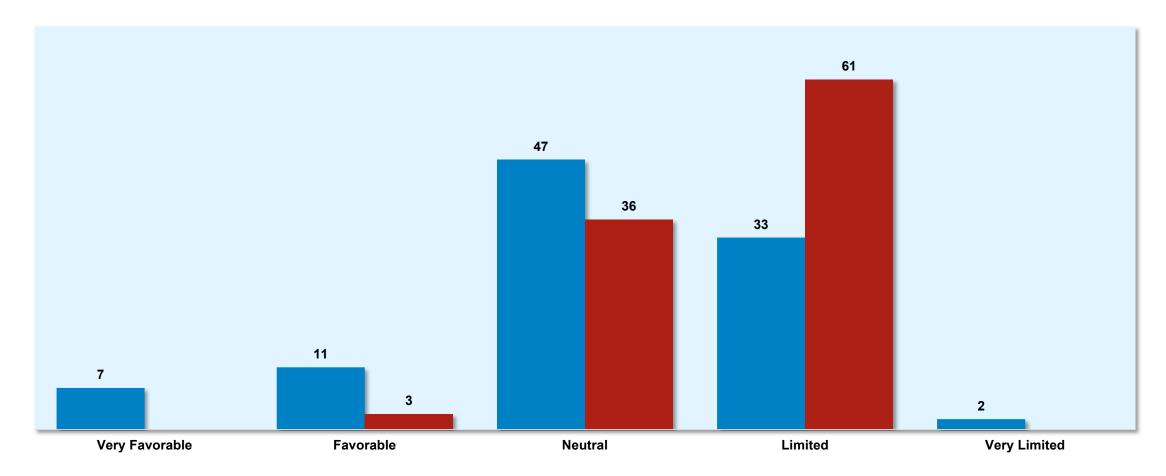


Operating Performance – Five-Year (2017-2021) Combined Ratio vs Standard Deviation



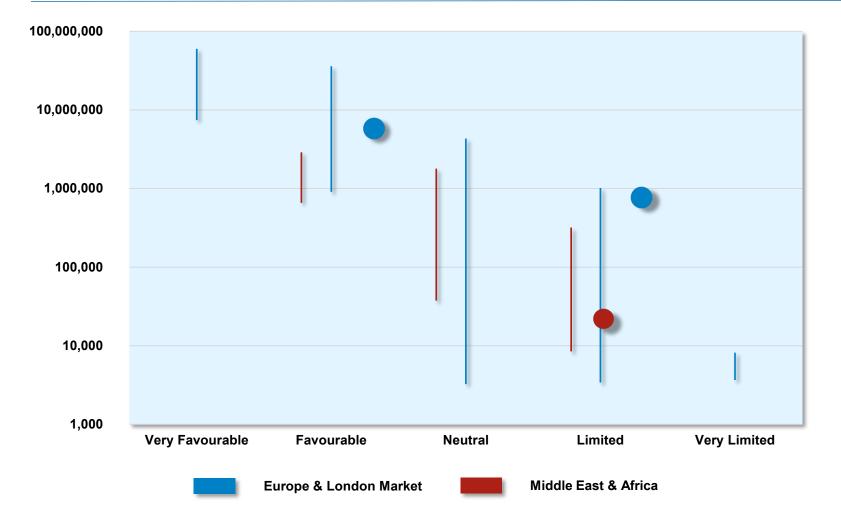
Business Profile – Distribution of Assessments (%)

Europe & London Market Middle East & Africa





Business Profile – Average Net Earned Premium (USD 000)

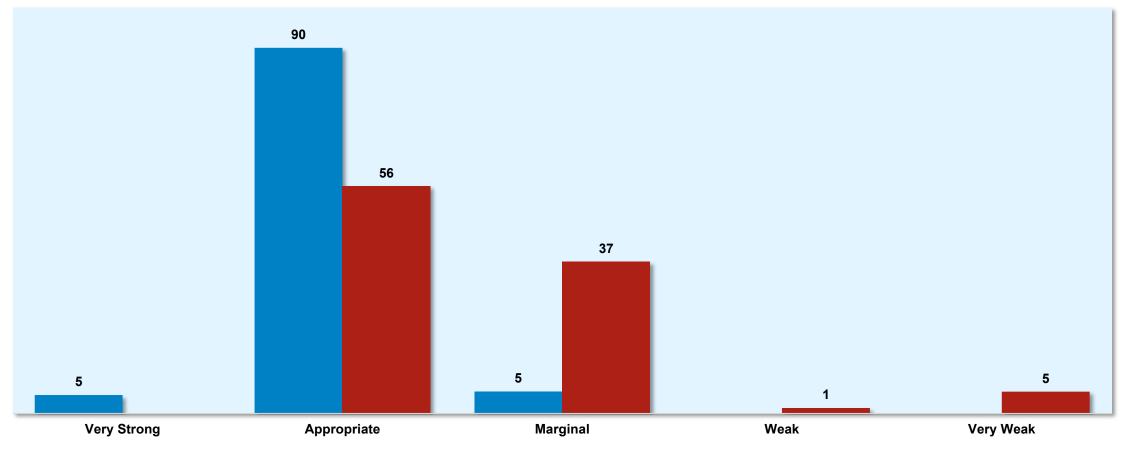


Business Profile Review Components					
Product/ Geographic Concentration	Product Risk				
Market Position	Degree of Competition				
Pricing Sophistication & Data Quality	Management Quality				
Regulatory, Event & Market Risks	Distribution Channels				
Innovation					



Enterprise Risk Management – Distribution of Assessments (%)



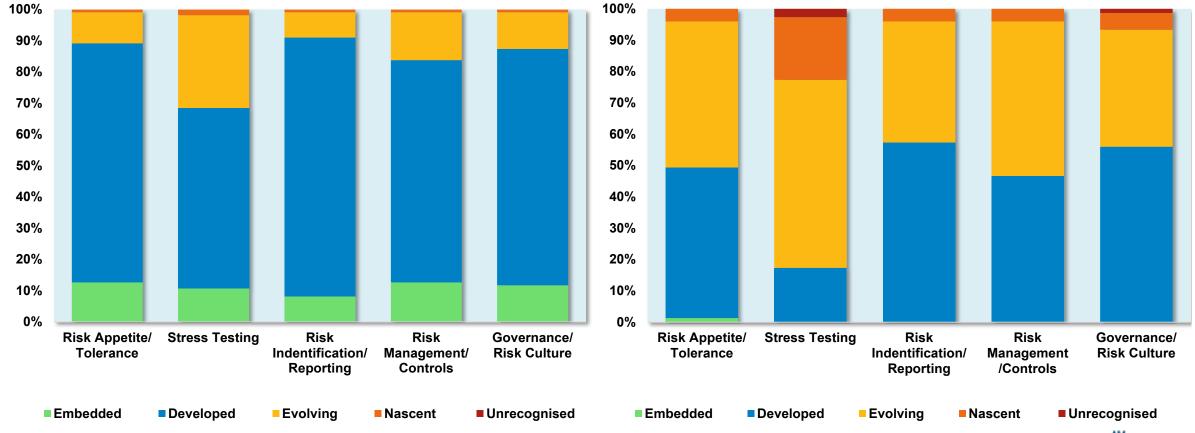




Enterprise Risk Management – Distribution of Risk Framework Assessments (%)

Europe & London Market

Middle East & Africa

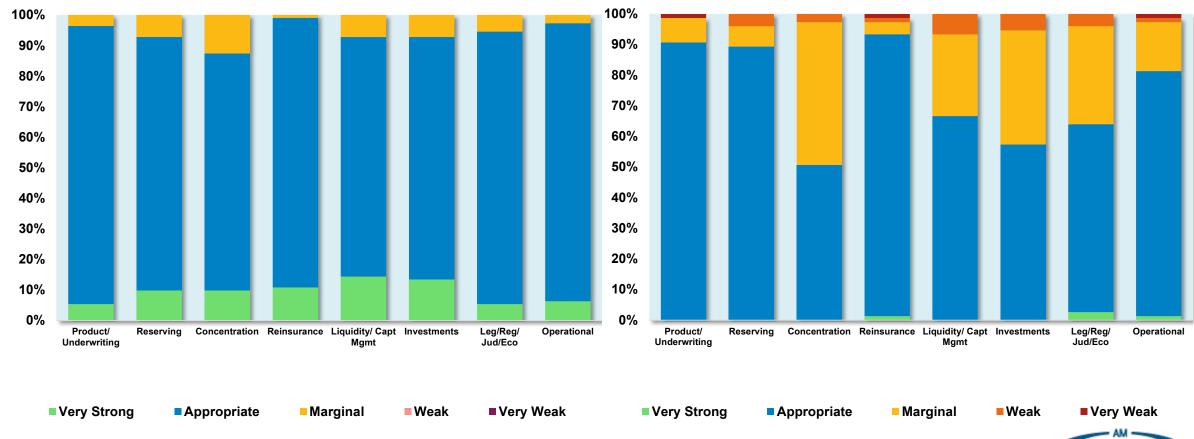




Enterprise Risk Management – Distribution of Risk Capability Assessments (%)

Europe & London Market

Middle East & Africa





Benchmarking EMEA Ratings

Ben Diaz-Clegg Senior Financial Analyst

Timothy Prince
Director, Analytics

Q&A

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Closer Look – Start-Ups & Run-Offs

Timothy Prince Director, Analytics

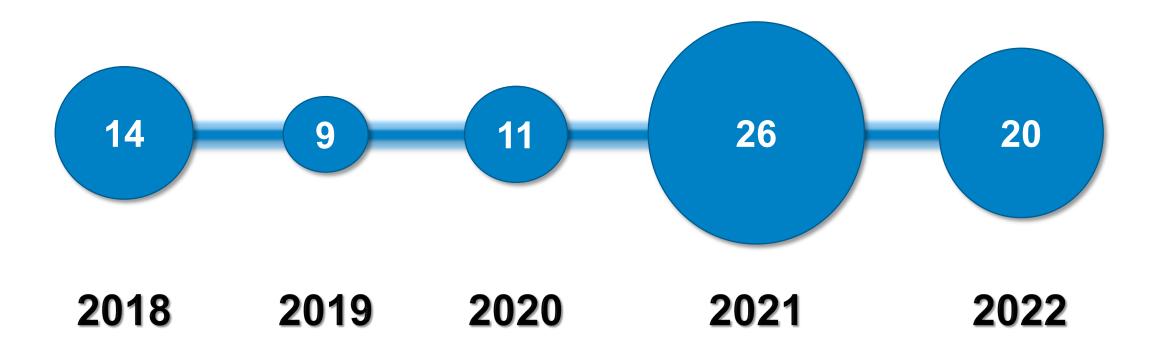
Alex Rafferty
Associate Director, Analytics



Rating New Company Formations

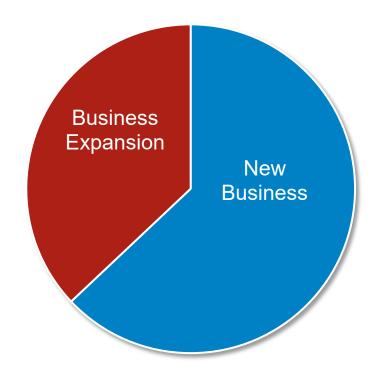


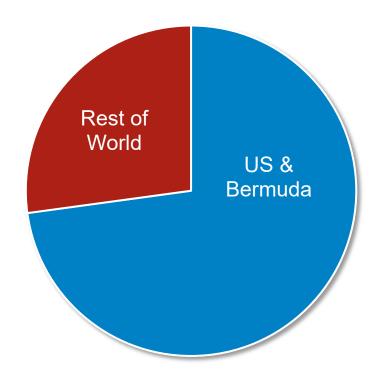
AM Best Specialty Criteria – Rating New Company Formations





Rating New Company Formations – Where and What?





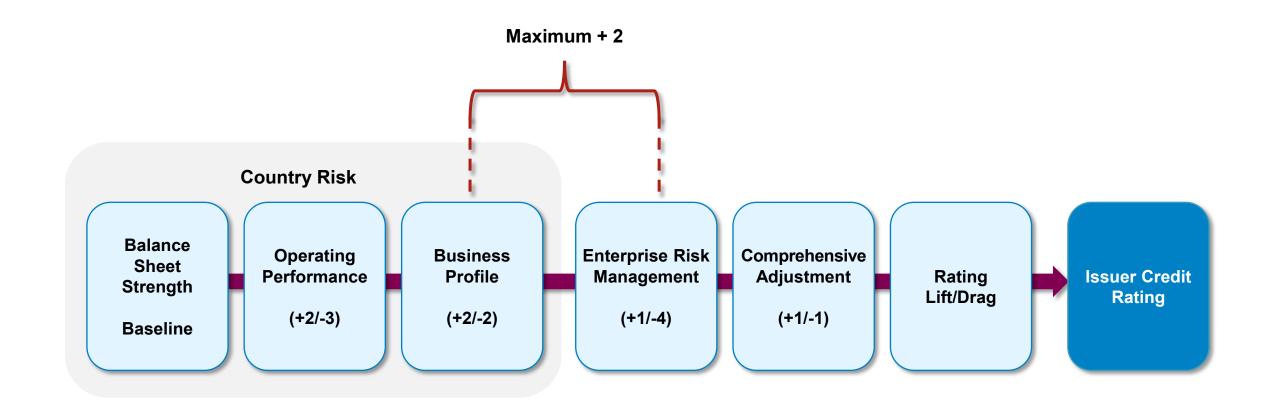


Rating New Company Formations – Types of Companies





Rating New Company Formations – AM Best's Rating Process





Rating New Company Formations – Specialty Criteria

Balance Sheet Strength



Operating Performance



Business Profile



ERM

- More Conservative BCAR Assumptions
- Funding & Investor Relations
- Reserving & Investment Strategies

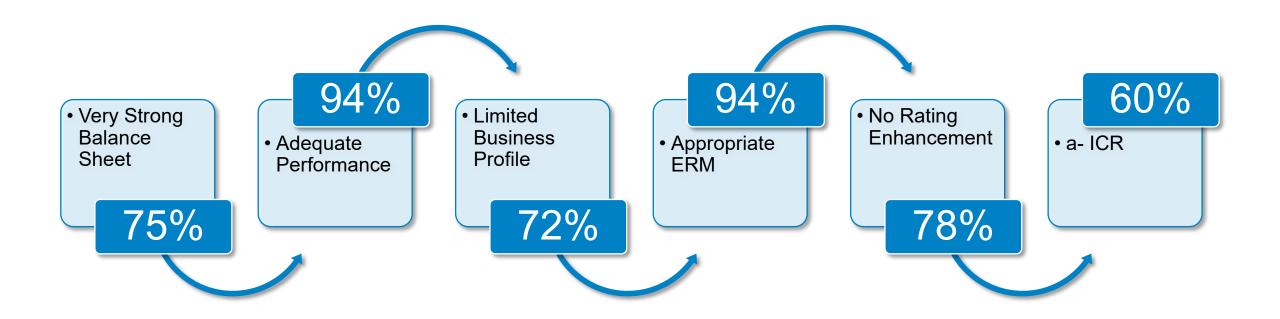
- Management Track Record
- Investor Expectations
- Return
 Expectations
 vs Market
 Realities
- Projected Capital Generation & Protection

- Sustainable & Achievable Business Plans
- Management & Underwriting Expertise
- Distribution
- Pricing Strategy & Controls

- Management Experience & Expertise
- Risk Appetite & Tolerance
- Ability to attract talent & Establish appropriate infrastructure and operational controls



Rating New Company Formations – Typical Assessment





Rating Run-Off Insurers and Specialists



Market Context - Non-Life Run-Off



BEST'S SPECIAL REPORT

Our Insight, Your Advantage™

Trend Review June 8, 2022

Motivated Sellers and Active Buyers Fuel Buoyant Market for Non-Life Run-Off Reserves

Increasingly
(re)insurers
are using
the legacy
insurance
segment as
part of their
capital and risk
management
strategies

Principal Takeaways

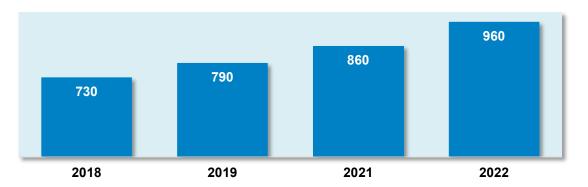
- Demand and supply side factors are driving high levels of activity in the legacy insurance market. Transaction volumes remained elevated throughout 2021 and into 2022
- The segment has seen an influx of capital in recent periods, along with new market entrants. Conditions remain competitive, which may weigh on deal pricing and prospective profitability
- Challenges facing the legacy segment include reserving uncertainties driven by inflationary trends, a shifting regulatory landscape and impacts arising from the adoption of IFRS 17

Activity in the global non-life legacy (run-off) insurance market is buoyant. Over recent years, the sector has seen a steady increase in the number of transactions executed. Run-off is no longer seen as an option of last resort and indicative of failed operations. Increasingly, (re)insurers are using the legacy insurance segment as part of their capital and risk management strategies, often for long-tailed insurance liabilities.

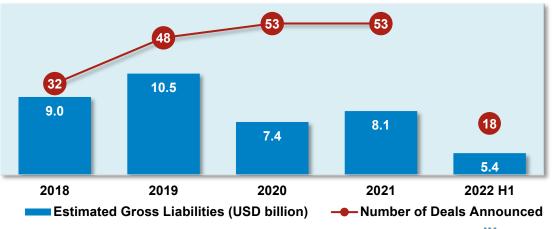
A multitude of demand and supply side drivers are fuelling the momentum. The current hardening conditions in the live market, demand for greater capital and operational efficiencies and an influx of capital deployed into run-off consolidators, are all significant factors.

However, competition in the segment is high, and pricing pressures have the potential to weigh on prospective margins. Additionally, uncertainties around reserve adequacy and the impact of social and wider inflationary trends on long-tail liability valuations present headwinds to those operating in the segment.

Estimated Global Non-Life Run-Off Liabilities (USD billion; Gross)

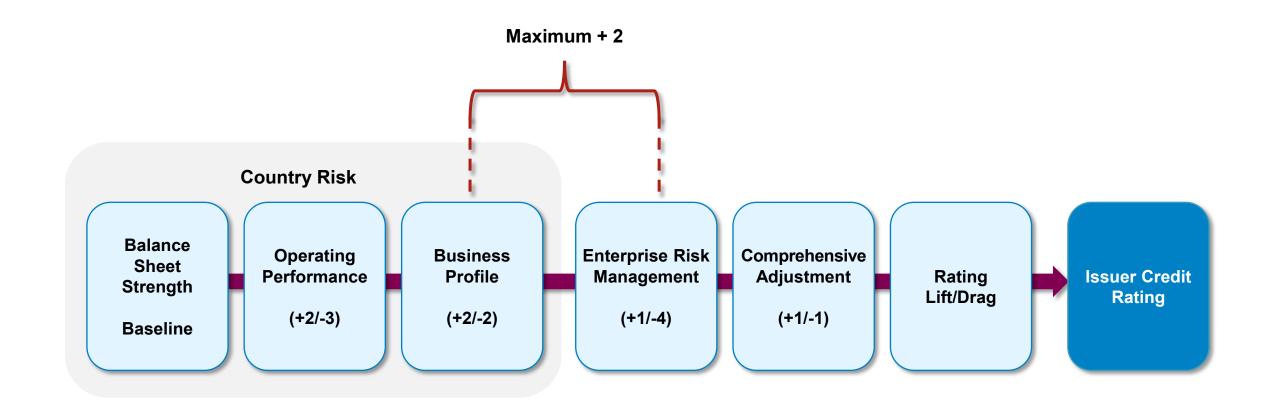


Non-Life Run-Off Reserves Transacted: 2018 – H1 2022





Rating Run-Off Insurers and Specialists – AM Best's Rating Process





Rating Run-Off Insurers and Specialists – Specialty Criteria

Focus On: Run-Off Insurers

Balance Sheet Strength



- Adequacy of loss reserves
- Credit risk of existing RI programs
- Liquidity, asset allocation, ALM strategies
- Capital management and distribution

Operating Performance



- Performance track record
- Ability to generate & accumulate capital
- Volatility of performance metrics
- Sufficiency of investment returns in absence of new premiums

Business Profile



- Achievable business / runoff plans
- Erosion of:
- Market position
- Diversification
- Differentiation
- Termination of distribution agreements
- Brand/reputation impacts

ERM

- Circumstances of entering run-off
- Management experience / expertise
- ERM framework and capabilities vs run-off risk profile



Rating Run-Off Insurers and Specialists – Specialty Criteria

Additional Considerations: Run-Off Specialists

Balance Sheet Strength

- Re-evaluation of current and prospective capitalisation for each material acquisition
- Uncertainty around future acquisitions affects capital requirements
- Examining the stringency of due diligence process

Operating Performance

- Performance track record of previously acquired books
- Performance demonstrates strength of negotiating position, reputation and ability to acquire quality business

Business Profile

- Management experience / expertise
- Successful execution of run-off strategies
- Class of business appetite / strategy
- Product and concentration risk

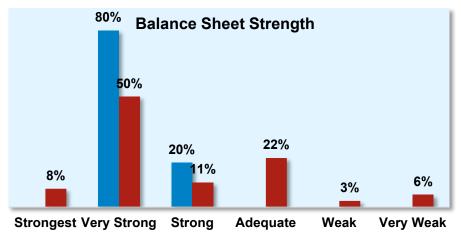
ERM

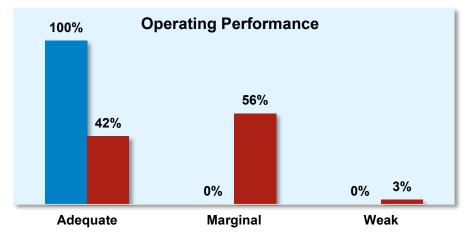
- Management experience / expertise
- Management of regulatory and operational risks

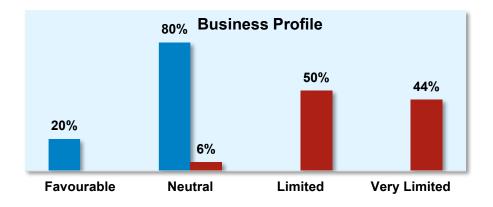


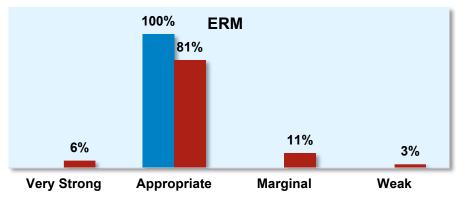
Building Block Distribution (%) – Run-Off Insurers and Specialists







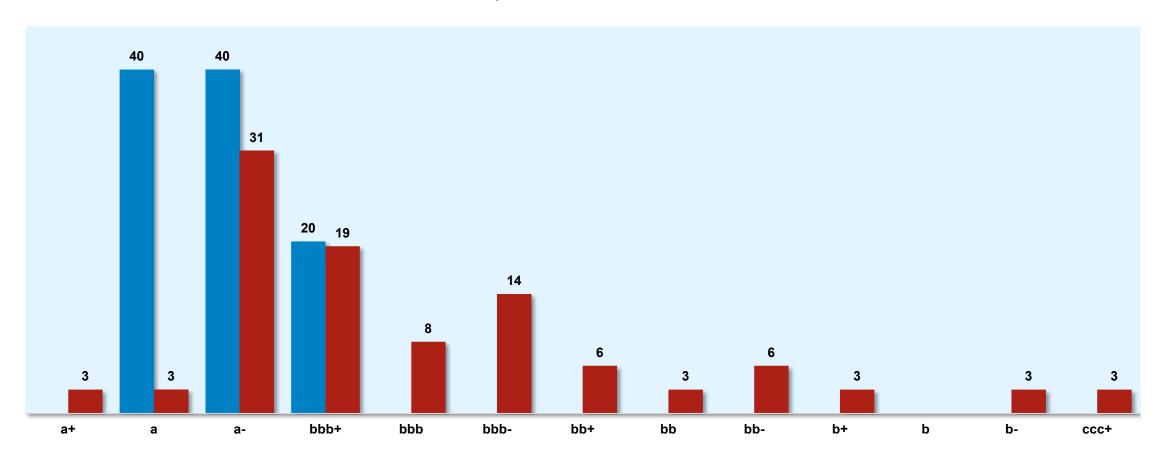






Issuer Credit Rating (ICR) Distribution (%) – Run-Off Insurers and Specialists

■ Run-Off Specialists ■ Run-Off Insurers





Closer Look – Start-Ups & Run-Offs

Timothy Prince Director, Analytics

Alex Rafferty Associate Director, Analytics

Q&A

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ESG in Best's Credit Rating Methodology (BCRM)

Victoria Ohorodnyk Associate Director



Understanding ESG Concepts: General Perspective

The consideration of environmental, social and governance factors alongside financial factors



Environmental factors relate to resource use, pollution, climate risk, energy use, waste management, and other physical environmental challenges and opportunities



Social factors relate to how a company interacts with the communities it operates in, its suppliers, employees, and broader stakeholders



Governance factors relate to procedures and processes according to which a company is directed and controlled



Translating into Criteria: Importance of ESG Factors Remains High

AM Best explicitly integrates consideration of ESG factors alongside traditional financial factors into its credit rating methodology.

Best's Credit Rating Methodology (BCRM)

Balance Sheet Strength

- Climate risk
- ESG integration in investing activities
- Stranded assets

Operating Performance

- Social inflation
- ESG-related litigation
- Impact of ESG integration on profitability

Business Profile

- Underwriting exclusions
- Changing demographics
- Data privacy
- Reputational risk

Enterprise Risk Management

- Corporate governance
- Stress testing
- Financial and non-financial risks

- ESG factors, where material and relevant, may impact any one or several building blocks
- · Impact of ESG is viewed purely from an analytical perspective: focusing on the impact on the credit rating
- · No judgement is made on the ethical value of ESG activities, or ESG credentials of the company



ESG in Credit Ratings

- ESG commentary included within Best's Credit Rating Methodology
- ESG is relevant when it has a visible impact on financial strength. Positive or negative ESG attributes may have no impact on credit quality
- ESG exposures may not be uniform understanding the type of company, lines of business, level of risk transfer, operating jurisdictions and government participation in risks are important
- The short and long term impact on Financial Strength of ESG risks and opportunities is likely to vary depending on the nature of the company
- ESG risks or opportunities that may be less relevant today, may become more in important in the future.
- Approach is generally forward looking
- ESG is important but not a new concept: Environmental risks and governance have always been considered in credit ratings
- Discussions, where relevant, may consider the following topics:

Strategy Climate Risk Capital Structure Underwriting Investment ERM Regulation



ESG Impact on Credit Quality

ESG Credit Factors are the intersection between standard credit factors and ESG factors that are applicable to the insurance industry – ESG are not new factors but a subset of credit factors

Credit ESG Credit ESG
Factors Factors Factors

AM Best analyses credit issues and how these risks / opportunities can affect the Financial Strength of insurers. If risks / opportunities fall outside of expectation (relative to market, peer group), then there could be an impact on financial strength. This could be a positive or a negative impact.

Are ESG risks and opportunities* relevant?



How is the company managing them?

* ESG risks and opportunities will vary by company subject to their profile, exposures, protection and market(s) they operate in

Some ESG issues may seem less important today, but may have greater importance over the medium-to-long term, and thereby have the possibility to impact financial strength, particularly if no action is taken. The concept is forward looking to understand how companies will shape (if required) their business in light of forthcoming challenges.

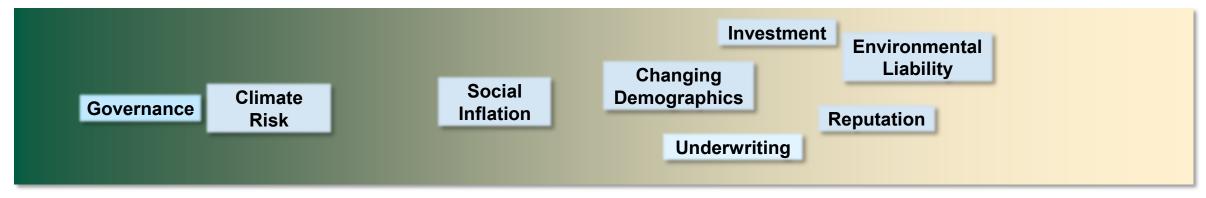


ESG Potential Impact on Credit Quality

The impact of ESG Factors on financial strength is not uniform and can vary due to:

- Type of company
- Exposure (liability and asset)
- Level of risk transfer
- The markets a company operates in

Issues like Governance and Climate Risk can have a material impact on an insurers financial strength



High

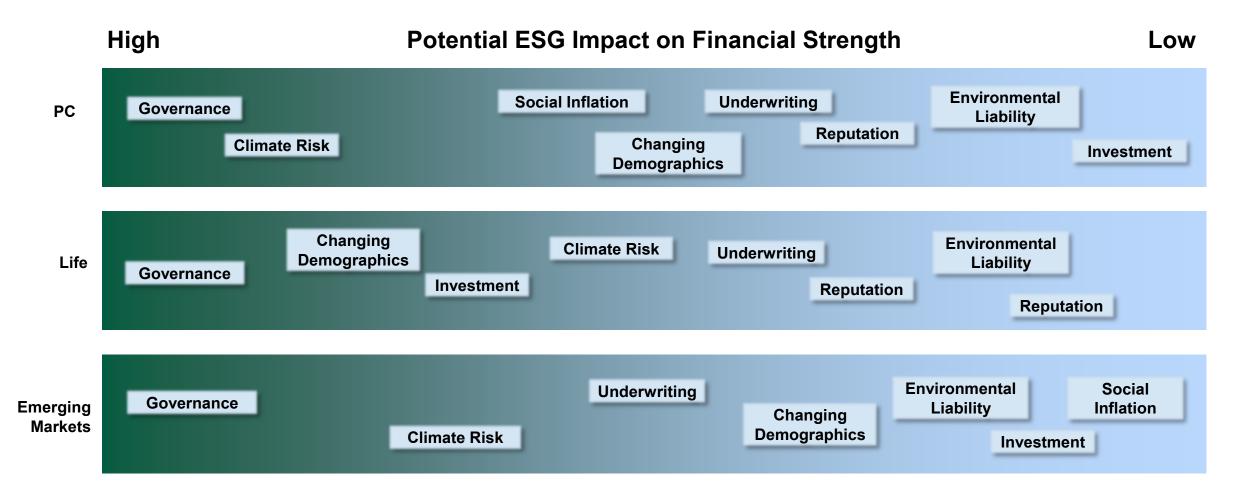
Potential ESG Impact on Financial Strength

Low

The impact of some ESG credit factors may be increasing over time.



ESG Potential Impact on Credit Quality is not Uniform: Examples





ESG and Regulation

In general, we see regulation as a driving force of more ESG-related activities by companies.

- **Opportunity** for insurance companies to strengthen their risk awareness by coming into line with regulatory requirements.
- **Risk** of non-compliance with regulatory requirements
- **Risk** of additional costs and consumption of management time associated with compliance
- **Risk** of market losses associated with forced divestment of assets

Level of risk varies considerably by geography:

High **ESG-related Regulatory Risk** Latam Large/Listed **US** - mainly ASIA -Canada, European listed co. **Emerging** Middle East Singapore, Australia, New based Focus on Europe Hong Kong Zealand (Re)Insurance climate risk **Groups Africa**



Low

Geography

EU and **UK** Regulatory Update

European Union

- Directive 2014/95/EU –
 also called the Non-Financial Reporting Directive
 (NFRD); to be replaced by the Corporate
 Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) in 2023
- Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulations (SFDR)
- Proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDD) – introducing a duty of care for large companies to tackle environmental and social impacts across their value chain

United Kingdom

- Climate reporting needs to be disclosed in line with TCFD recommendations since April 2022
- CBES stress tests required for large insurers (2021)
- ISSB: ED IFRS S1, ED IFRS S2 consultation launched in March 2022 (closed in July 2022)



Assessing Climate Risk through the Rating Process

Climate Risk

- Capital position withstands shocks
- Protection against peak exposures and aggregation of losses
- Low volatility / sensitivity to climate risk
- Diversification in investment portfolio

- Stability of earnings
- Limited impact of stranded assets
- Adequate modelling and pricing
- New climate products earnings accretive

- Underwriting profile diversified and insulated against climate risks
- Development of new products
- Clearly defined policy wording and contracts

- Climate risks factored into ERM approach
- Ability to absorb climate stress tests
- Ability to model weather-related risks
- High visibility of climate reporting, (financial disclosures, regulatory reporting)
- Board oversight

Balance Sheet Strength

- Rapid decline in capital position – overexposure, unexpected losses
- Inadequate protection against peak exposures
- High volatility / sensitivity to climate risks
- Material write-downs of stranded assets

Operating Performance

- Volatile earnings
- Financial losses due to stranded assets
- Climate risks not considered in underwriting model
- Unexpected losses
- Adverse mortality and morbidity rates from resistant disease

Business Profile

- Underwriting or investment profile concentrated and exposed to climate risk
- Uncertain or indirect exposures to climate risks

Enterprise Risk Management

- Breaches of appetite and tolerance
- · Stress test failures
- Inadequate risk modelling – poor data quality
- Non-disclosure in financial reporting
- Inadequate protection against peak exposure, or aggregation of risks

Issuer Credit Rating



Assessing Governance through the Rating Process

Governance

- Capital planning and monitoring
- Measurement and control of asset risk
- Risk-based assessment of capital position

- Consistent ability to achieve budgeted performance.
- Effective KPI-linked executive incentives
- Losses within boardapproved appetite

- Effective decision making and strategy setting
- Management and board members with strong market and product knowledge

- Board oversight of risk function
- Risk management considered in decision making
- Effective internal controls
- Detailed and timely management information and KPI tracking

Balance Sheet Strength

- Poor ability to manage capital and solvency
- Inadequate protection against peak exposures
- Problems with audit and valuations

Operating Performance

- Mismanagement leading to poor strategy and loss-making operations
- Poor decision making around risk/reward
- Losses associated with fraud, fines

Business Profile

- Weak or inexperienced management and/or board members
- Excess product risk due to poor decision making
- Reputational risk associated with mismanagement

Enterprise Risk Management

- Lack of board involvement in riskmanagement
- Breaches of appetite and tolerance
- Inadequate financial reporting
- Ineffective third party experts e.g. actuary





ESG in Best's Credit Rating Methodology (BCRM)

Victoria Ohorodnyk Associate Director

Q&A

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IFRS 17 – Transitioning to a New Standard

Anthony Silverman
Director, Credit Rating Criteria, Research & Analytics
Pierre Tournier
Associate Director, Analytics



Developments and Challenges



Developments and challenges

Challenges that IFRS 17 is targeted to resolve:

- Inconsistent reporting between territories
- Inconsistent reporting within companies
- Life P&I reporting has weak links to profit drivers – more usually a "retro-fit" from regulatory balance sheets
- Widely varying, and often distant, relationships to value

- Life heavy user reliance on supplementary reporting (value based, regulatory)
- Opaque to many users
- Problematic public face of industry in financial markets

In general, challenges are more life-related



Developments, Challenges and AM Best's Response – Data

Task	AM Best's Response
Gathering (very) different public data	Analytically fully specified
	IT stage in process
SRQ	Analytically fully specified
	Some existing requests will become more important: Amount of discount in reserves by line (non-life)
	New requests: Non-life incurred claims net creditors (re)insurance debtors – not new data
	New requests, new data – not a feature
Timing is fixed	On plan so far
Company data	Depends on data provision
Unknown unknowns	Some contingency in timetable



Challenges and AM Best's Response – Modelling, KPIs, etc.

Task	AM Best's Response
Model	Strategy is for an unchanged economic model Factors are not in general a function of companies' accounting standard in global BCAR Inputs are carefully specified
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Many new ones Refreshed existing Large majority are unchanged
Field testing	Commences 2023
Credit reports	Careful progress to provide for all stakeholders
Resourcing	All support provided
Training	Heavily engaged



Market Preparedness, Communication to Stakeholders, Rating impact



IFRS 17 – Market Preparedness and Communication

Market Preparedness

- Expect deadlines will be met, despite peculiarities of a transition year
- Cost and effort remains significant, as expected
- Some variability between insurers regarding progress and understanding of standards, however

Larger, more prepared companies:

- In-house work and subject matter expertise, supplemented by external support
- External communication implies that methodology and data work is in an advanced state
- Analysis has been ongoing through 2022, including sensitivity analysis and parallel runs

Smaller, less prepared companies:

- Reliance on external support, both for methodology and implementation
- Analysis and impact analysis more variable
- Some delays have been reported



IFRS 17 – Market Preparedness and Communication

Communication

- The learning curve for IFRS 17 is steep
- External communication in nascent stages:
 - Slow communication seems to partly be because work is ongoing, partly because the subject is hard
- Scheduled investor presentations have been held through 2022, mostly in Q4:
 - Presentations tend to be educational and focus on key themes and high-level expectations
 - No hard numbers or parallel runs shared
- Communication suggests that while reporting will change, the business will be unaffected
 - In many cases, management targets are expected to be carried over
 - No expected impact on targets, dividends and solvency



IFRS 17 – Impact on AM Best's Ratings

- Currently, AM Best's ratings are assigned to insurers who report under different standards
- Variations in presentation of accounts do not impact credit fundamentals
- Accounts may lead to new insights, however:
 - A new model will help draw out insights from other models
 - There will also be new surprises and sensitivities to learn about
- The new presentation may influence the timing and transparency of how quickly results are shared
 - The level of optional disclosures included will impact how well results are understood
 - Volatility of year over year results may also evolve



Decisions, Key Performance Indicators



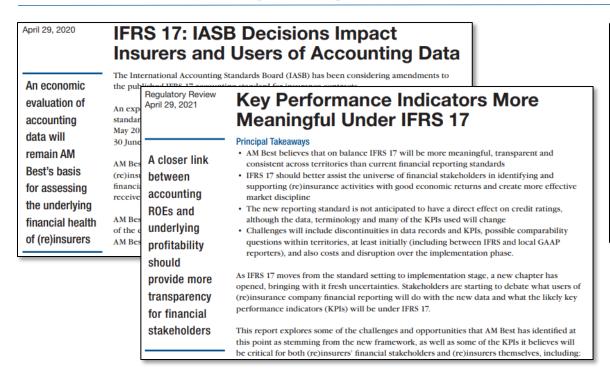
Using KPIs under IFRS 17

- Combined ratios:
 - Practice will initially diverge
 - Net/net is the continuity option, but net/gross may become more prominent over time
- CSM:
 - New + unwind versus amortised
 - New vs PVNBP
 - Contribution to available capital in BCAR
- RoE
 - Advantages to ratio using accounting as reported
 - With CSM as equity will also be used

- Life operating ratio
 - New and welcome ratio
 - Though problematic if revenue substantially delayed
- Investment result
 - New and welcome measure
- Profit contributions
 - Segment insurance services and investment result? Or allocate non-operating expenses?



IFRS 17 – Ongoing Research



Regulatory Review IFRS 17: Transitioning to a Standard April 28, 2022 with New Concepts and Terminology AM Best · In general, AM Best does not expect the introduction of IFRS 17 to have a direct impact on anticipates . AM Best will continue to have an economic view of (re)insurers' balance sheets to cater for different reporting standards across jurisdictions

that industry practice on KPIs may well take two or three years to

settle

Market Preparedness for IFRS 17 in the MENA Region Varies

AM Best views few MENA insurance companies as fully prepared for the transition to IFRS 17

May 30, 2022

Principal Takeaways:

- · The level of preparedness in the Middle East and North Africa region for IFRS 17 varies significantly by country and by insurer, ahead of the standard's effective date of 1 January
- · In general, companies operating in the region's more mature regulatory environments show greater readiness for IFRS 17, AM Best's analysis shows. There is a less consistent picture among the region's small carriers and in markets with less oversight
- The Premium Allocation Approach—a simpler method of measuring contracts than the General Measurement Model—is expected to be widely utilised across the region for qualifying products, which in theory should support the ease of transition to IFRS 17
- There is a clear reliance on third parties to drive IFRS 17 implementation projects, creating the risk of potential disconnect between internal management engagement and external consultant experience
- General weakness in data quality is an area of concern, given the increased data requirements of IFRS 17

Visit AM Best's research pages for more information





IFRS 17 – Transitioning to a New Standard

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Q&A

Use the QR code to submit questions to our speakers

Don't forget to include your NAME and COMPANY





Q&A – Interactive Panel Discussion

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