

# AM Best's Perspectives on the State of the Global Reinsurance Industry

Dan Hofmeister - Senior Financial Analyst, Global Reinsurance

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#### **Global Reinsurance Market – Discussion Outline**

Outlook, Main Drivers, Key Themes

Is There Actually a "Capacity Shortage"?

Results Improving, but still Playing Catch-Up / IFRS 17 Transition

Are Previously Insured Risks Becoming "Less Insurable"?

Business Models Evolving – Hybrids, Role of ILS, Distribution

**AM Best's Expectations – The Next 12 Months** 



#### **Global Reinsurance Market Outlook – Stable**

#### Headwinds

"Available" capital ≠ "Deployed" capital Investor caution

More complex and evolving risk environment

Volatile investment markets

Inflationary pressures, rising interest rates Higher cost of capital

Protection gap bound to widen

Pressure to innovate to maintain relevance in broader economy

#### **Tailwinds**

Reinsurers remain well capitalized despite buffers having shrunk

Demand remains strong, characterized by flight to quality

Technical results continue to improve Underwriting discipline expected to last

Reinsurers have shown in the past their ability to innovate and re-invent themselves



# Is There Actually a "Capacity Shortage"?



# Why is this Cycle Different?

Leading indicators to historic reinsurance company formations

Single major event:

Hurricanes

Earthquakes

Terrorism

Material capital erosion

Sharp rates increase in a short period of time

New 2023/24 class?

Rising interest rates only since 2022

Higher cost of opportunity

Gradual rate increases before 1/1/23

**Alternative Capital** 

Plateaued since 2018

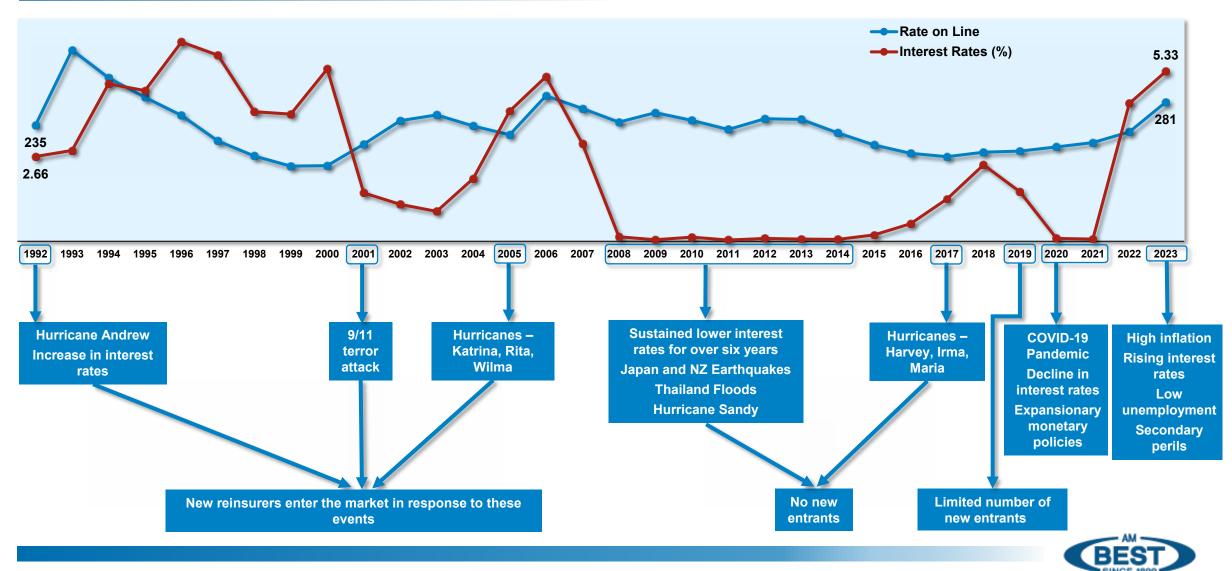
No single major catastrophe event

Accumulation of more frequent secondary perils

Global reinsurers remain well capitalised

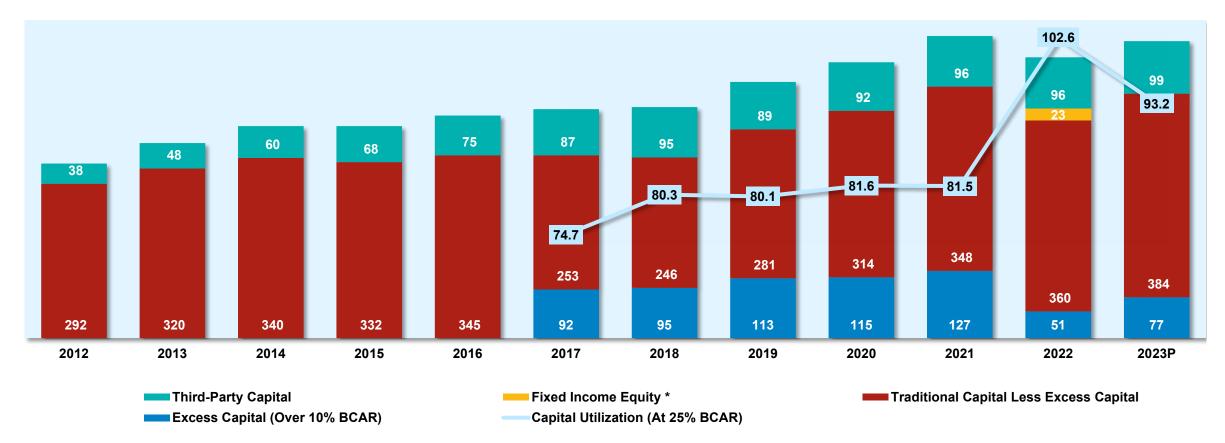


## Why is this Cycle Different?



### **Global Reinsurance Market Capital**

#### **Estimate – Total Dedicated Reinsurance Capital (USD Billions)**



<sup>\*:</sup> For reinsurers that have ample cash liquidity to support their potential shock losses, the "fixed-income equity" adjustment captures the amount of capital that AM Best anticipates will be recovered as bonds mature over time



# Ratings – Reinsurers Retain Financial Strength

# **U** Negative Factors

- Fixed-income unrealized investment losses
- Persistent high claims activity
- Weather-related and secondary perils
- Best's Capital Adequacy Ratios declined, but balance sheet strength remains unchanged
- Operating performance impacted

### Positive Factors

- Capital buffers protection
- Higher interest rates
- Asset Liability Management
- High credit quality of investment portfolios
- Dividend policy / share buybacks unaffected
- Balance sheet strength assessment remains unchanged
- Underwriting discipline

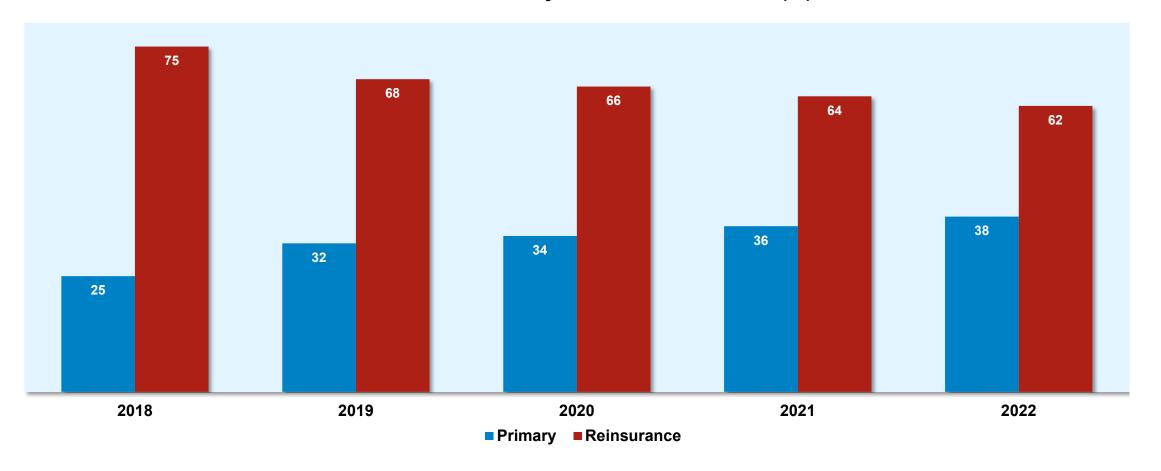


# Results Improving, but Still Playing Catch-Up IFRS 17 Transition



## Global Reinsurance – Primary Insurance vs. Reinsurance

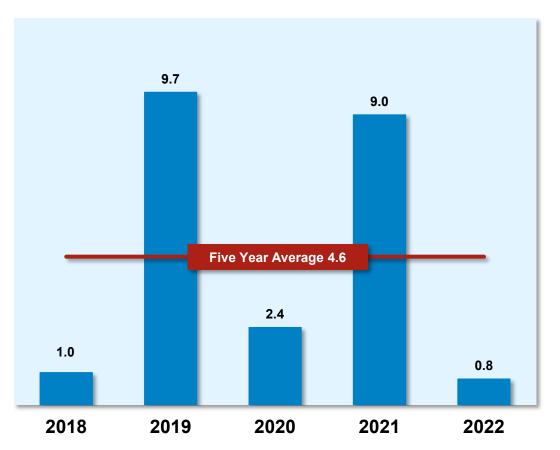
#### Allocation by Net Premium Written (%)



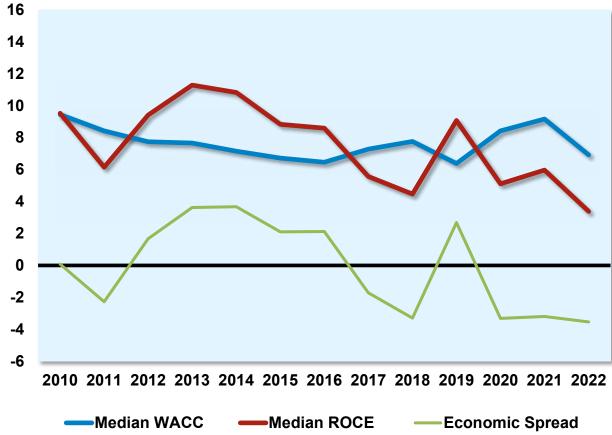


#### **Global Reinsurance Market Performance**

#### Return on Equity (%)



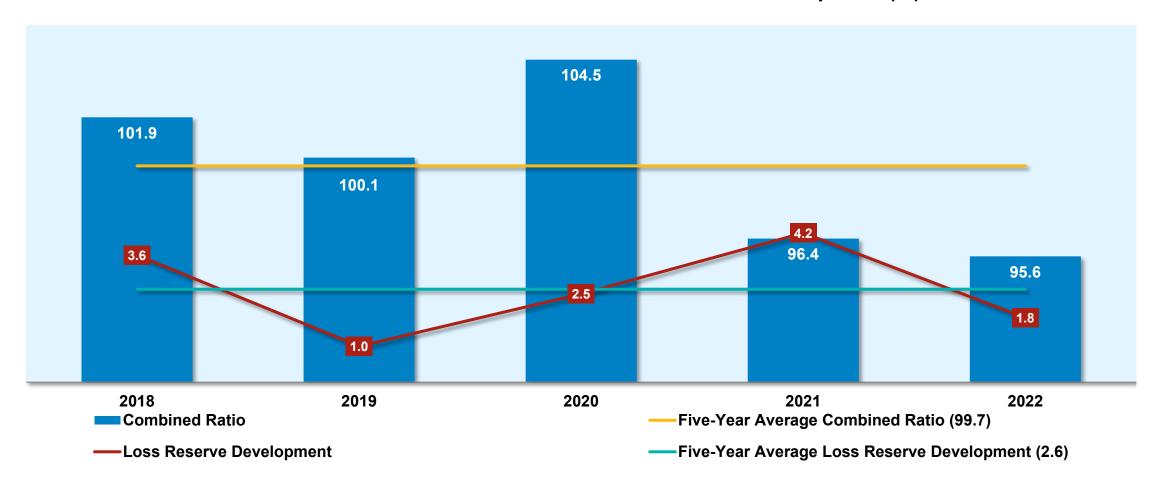
#### Reinsurers' Median Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) Compared to Median Return on Capital Employed (ROCE) (%)





#### **Global Reinsurance Market Performance**

#### **Combined Ratios and Favourable Reserve Development (%)**



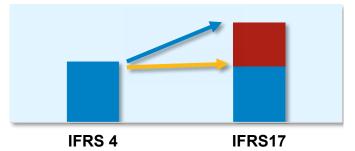


#### **Transition to IFRS 9 and IFRS 17**

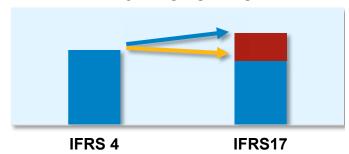
#### For consistency, AM Best always takes an economic view of a company or group's balance sheet

■ Capital & Surplus ■ Contractual Service Margin (For illustrative purposes only – Not to scale)

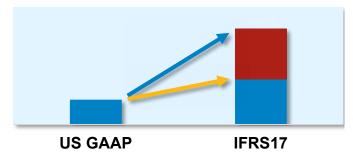
#### **Munich Re**



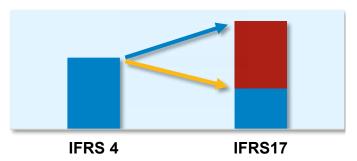
#### Hannover Re



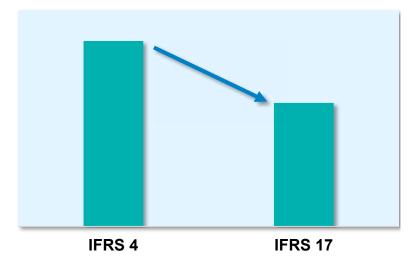
**Swiss Re** 



SCOR



Financial Leverage (Debt/[IFRS Equity+CSM+Debt])

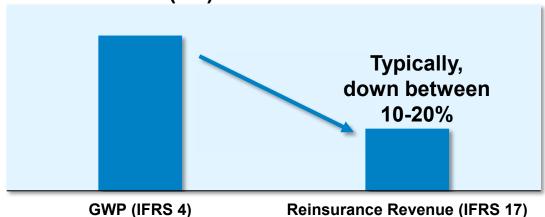




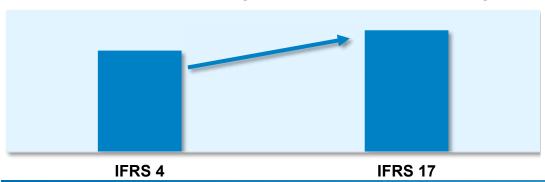
#### **Transition to IFRS 9 and IFRS 17**

#### Comparisons against US GAAP writers will become more challenging

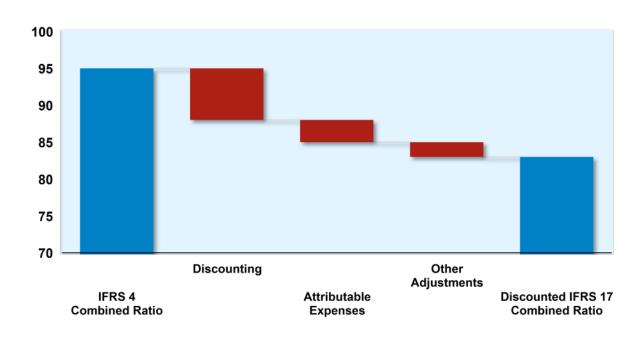
# Transitioning from Premiums Written to (Re)insurance Revenue



#### **Return on Equity (Income/IFRS Equity)**



#### **Favourable Movements in Combined Ratio**





# Are Previously Insured Risks Becoming "Less Insurable"?



# Business Models Evolving – Hybrids Role of ILS Distribution



#### **Evolution of Business Models**

Investors seem to prefer diversified, flexible companies, with a proven track record

High demand for reinsurance, driven by flight to quality. Financial strength is paramount

Well diversified, nimble and established reinsurers in a strong position

**Specialised reinsurers have become rare** 

**Expansion of established players** more likely than new entrants

Alternative capital has become more of a partner than a competitor

**Evolving distribution models** critical to expand business



# What to Expect for the Next 12 Months?



## **AM Best's Expectations – The Next 12 Months**

Underwriting profits – to continue

Disciplined expansion of the reinsurance segment – led by major players

Inflationary pressures and high interest rates – to remain

Emerging risks – slow expansion

Rate increases – to continue at a slower pace

Significant new capital / number of new entrants – unlikely

Renewed appetite for volatile lines of business – but with tighter terms and conditions

Higher retentions – here to stay



# **Key Themes**

# There is no capacity shortage

just smarter allocation

# Results improving

but reinsurers still catching up

# **Business models evolving**

the death of the specialist?









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