

# Economic Trends Affecting Automobile Insurance

AIPSO 10<sup>th</sup> Residual Market Planning Conference Providence, RI April 10, 2012

Steven N. Weisbart, Ph.D., CLU, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist Insurance Information Institute ♦ 110 William Street ♦ New York, NY 10038

Office: 212.346.5540 ♦ Cell: (917) 494-5945 ♦ stevenw@iii.org ♦ www.iii.org

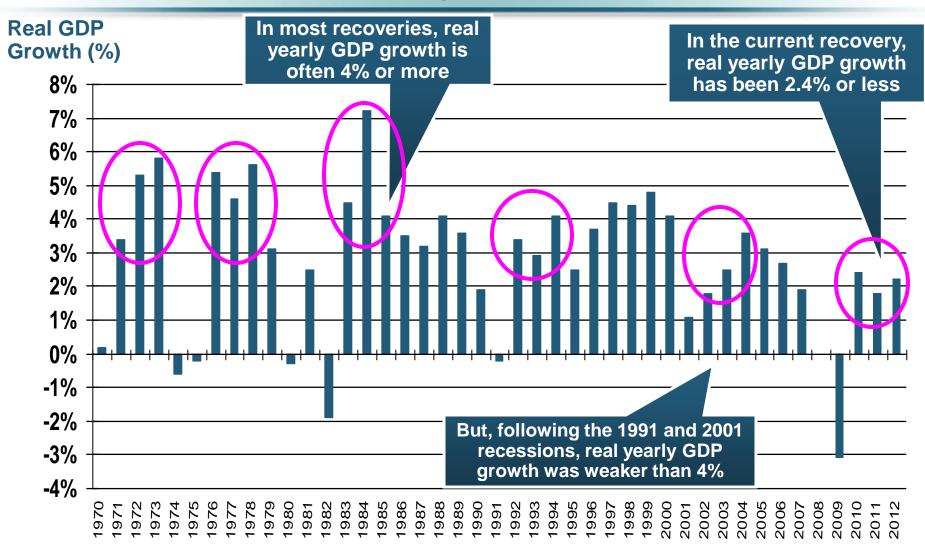


# The Strength of the Economy Will Affect P/C Insurer Growth Opportunities

Growth Will Expand Insurable Exposures and Help Absorb Excess Capital

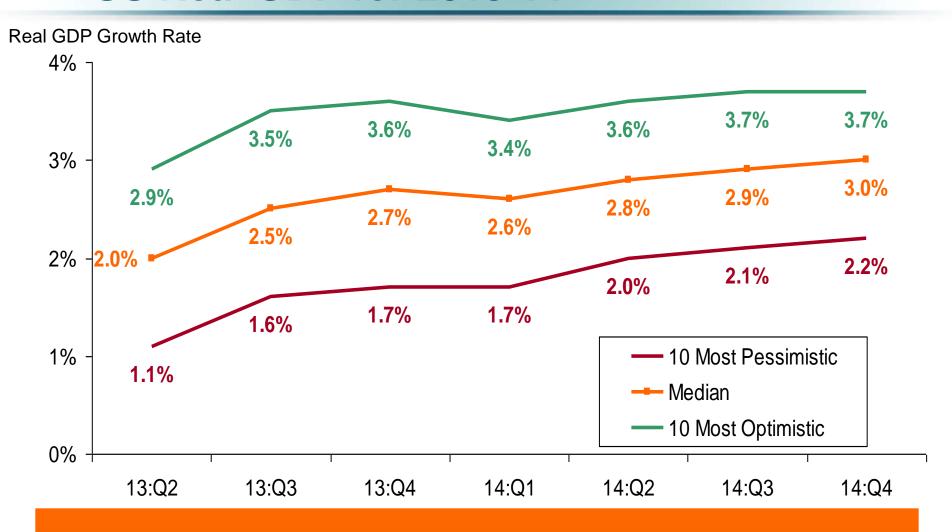
## Real GDP Growth: Past Recessions and Recoveries, Yearly, 1970-2012





#### March 2013 Forecasts of Quarterly US Real GDP for 2013-14





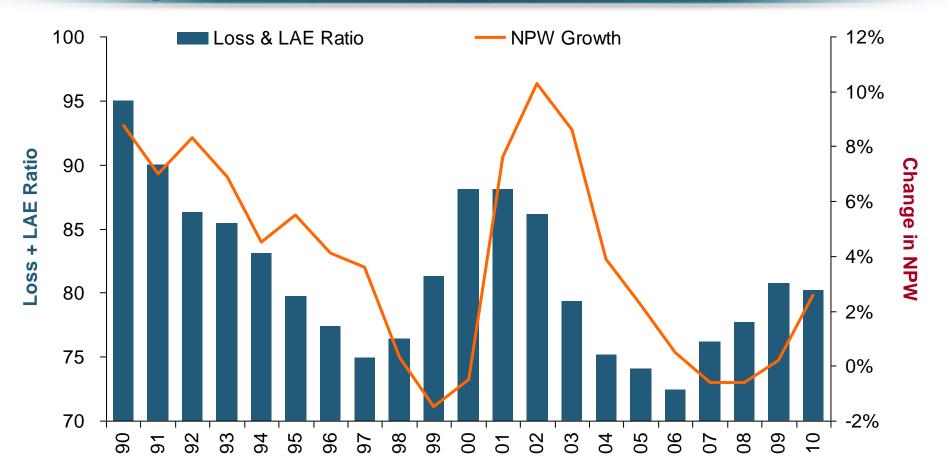


# Personal Auto Insurance Premium Growth

Depends on Exposure Growth, Price Level Changes, and Other Factors

#### PP Auto Liability: Loss + LAE Ratio vs. Change in Net Premiums Written, 1990-2010

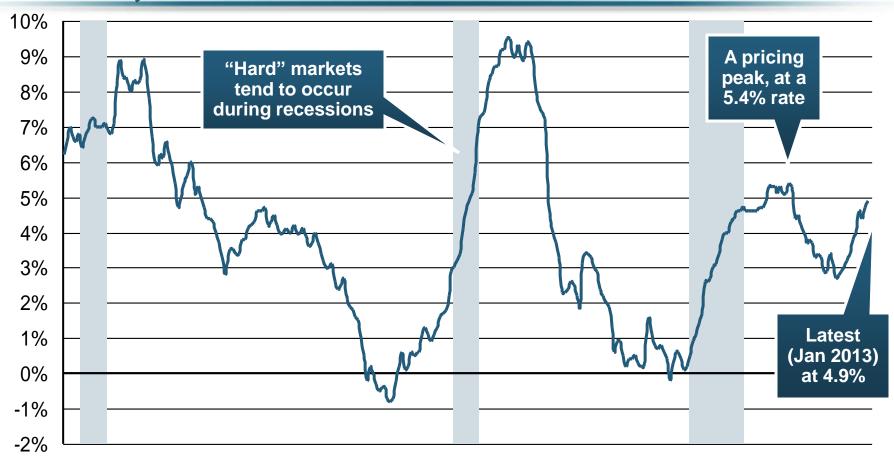




Historically, loss trends are a main driver of premium volume changes.

## Monthly Change\* in Auto Insurance Prices, 1991–2013





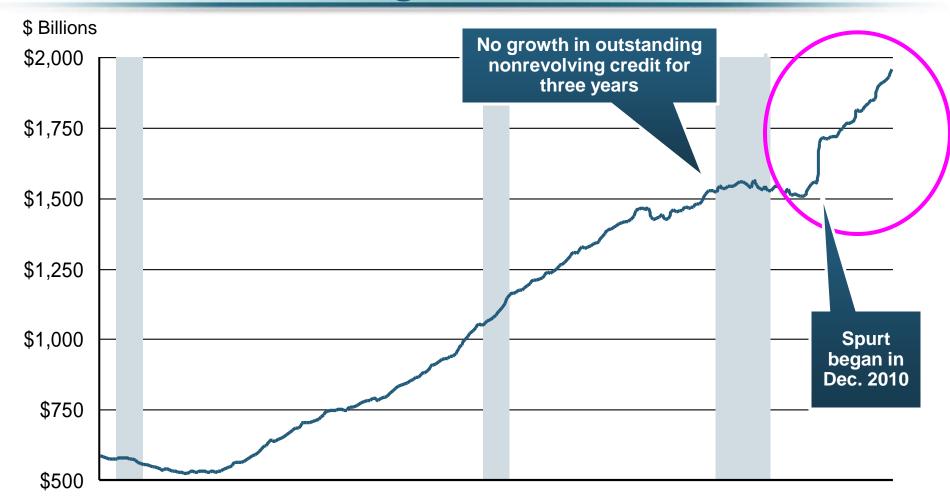
'90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13 Cyclical peaks in PP Auto tend to occur approximately every 10 years (early 1990s, early 2000s, and possibly the early 2010s)

Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics; National Bureau of Economic Research (recession dates); Insurance Information Institute.

<sup>\*</sup>Percentage change from same month in prior year; through January 2013; seasonally adjusted Note: Recessions indicated by gray shaded columns.

## Auto Loans and other Nonrevolving Credit Outstanding, 1990–2013\*





'90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13

Note: Recessions indicated by gray shaded columns. \*Latest data is for January 2013, preliminary

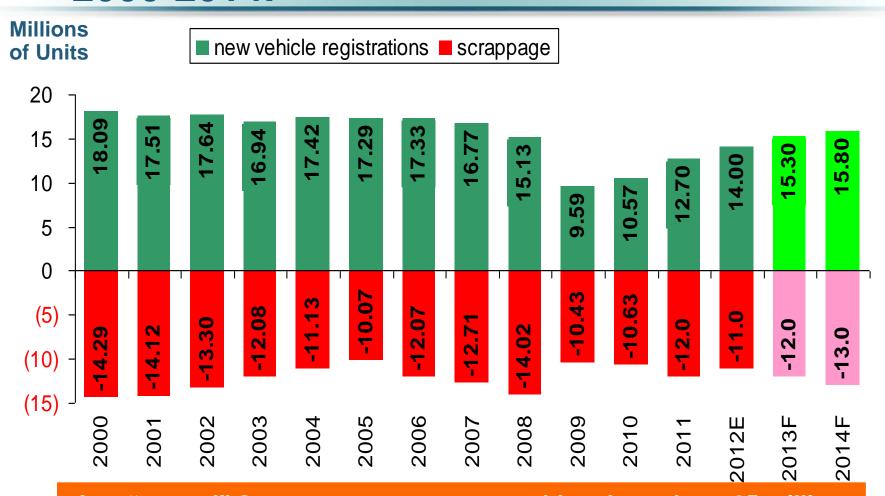
Sources: Federal Reserve at

http://www.federalreserve.gov/datadownload/Download.aspx?rel=G19&series=8ee7aa36107a130bcc862d44824a3b86&lastObs=&from=&to=&filetype=csv&label=include&layout=seriescolumn&type=package

National Bureau of Economic Research (recession dates); Insurance Information Institutes.

#### Auto/Light Truck Exposure Changes, 777 2000-2014F



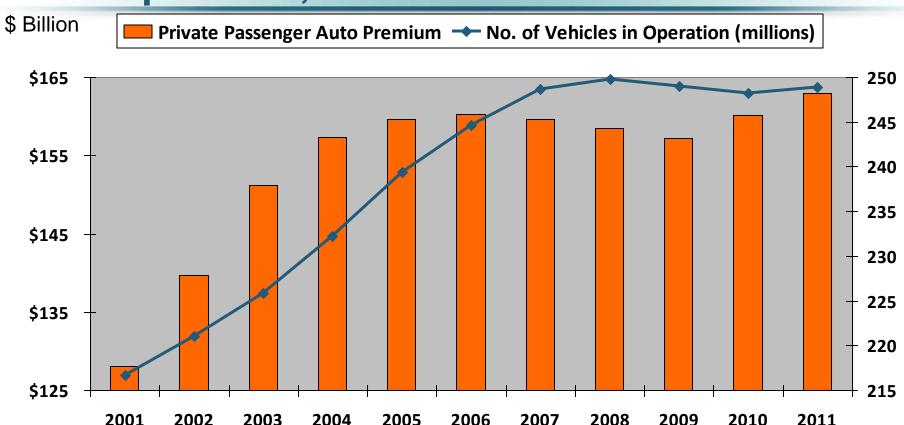


In a "normal" 2-year span, new cars would replace about 25 million old cars, but in 2009-10 only about 17 million old cars were replaced

Sources: NADA, State of the Industry Report 2012, p. 16, at <a href="https://www.nada.org/nadadata">www.nada.org/nadadata</a> citing R. L. Polk; new vehicle estimate/forecasts from Blue Chip Economic Indicators, 3/2013 issue; scrappage estimates/forecasts from Insurance Information Institute.

#### PP Auto NWP vs. # of Vehicles in Operation, 2001–2011



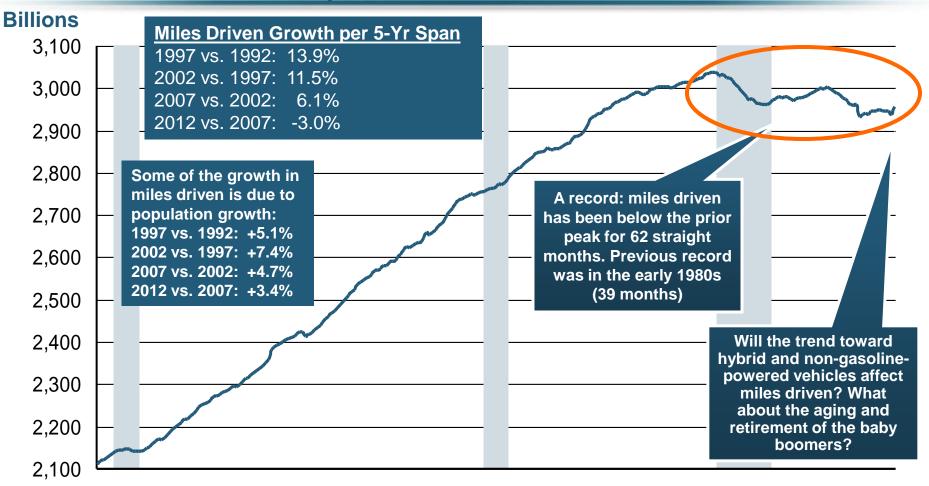


PP Auto premiums written are recovering from a period of no growth attributable to the weak economy affecting new vehicle sales, car choice, and increased price sensitivity among consumers

Sources: A.M. Best; NADA, *State of the Industry Report 2012*, p. 16, at <a href="www.nada.org/nadadata">www.nada.org/nadadata</a> citing R. L. Polk; Insurance Information Institute.

#### Something Unusual is Happening: Miles Driven\*, 1990–2013





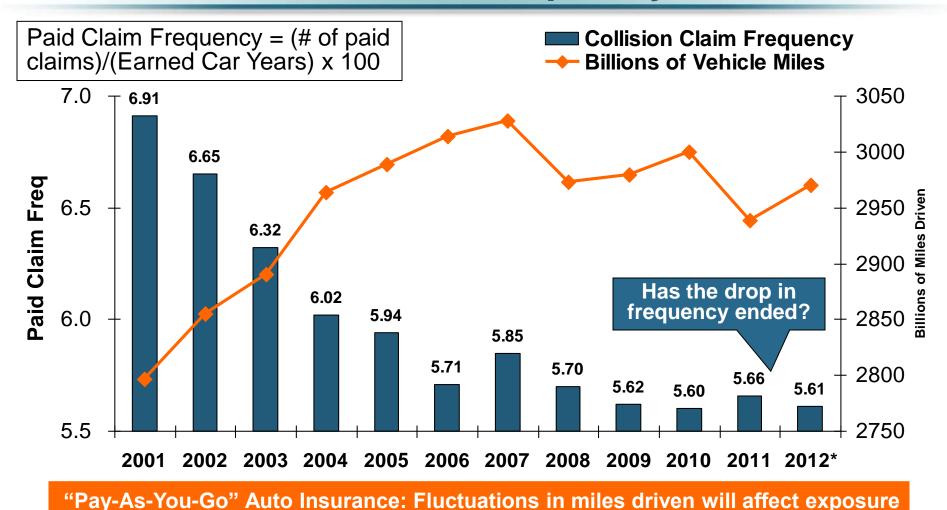
'90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13

Note: Recessions indicated by gray shaded columns..

<sup>\*</sup>Moving 12-month total. The latest data is for January 2013.

#### Do Changes in Miles Driven Affect Auto Collision Claim Frequency?

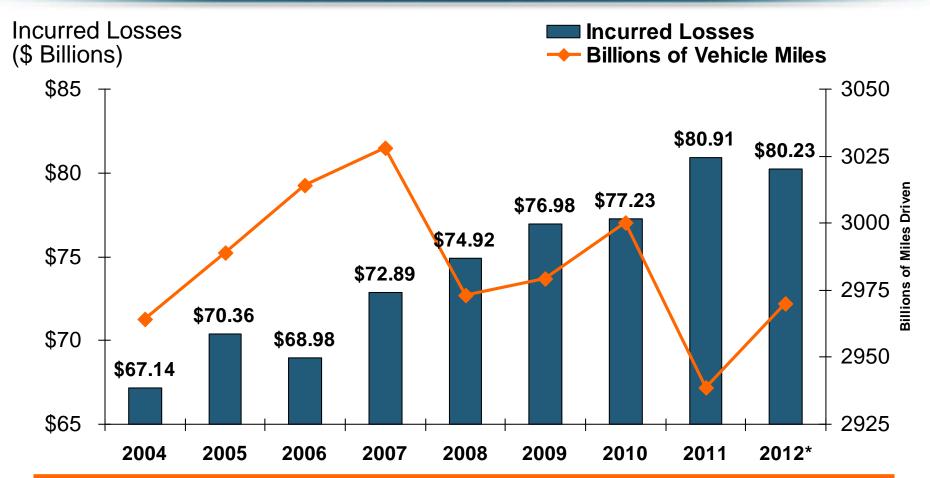




\*2012 collision claim frequency data is for twelve months ending September 2012.
Sources: Federal Highway Administration (<a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/tvtw/tvtpage.cfm">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/tvtw/tvtpage.cfm</a>; ISO Fast Track Monitoring System, Private Passenger Automobile Fast Track Data: 3rd Qtr. 2012, published January 8, 2013, and earlier reports.

#### Do Changes in Miles Driven Affect Auto Claims Payments (BI+PhysDam)?





The sharp drop in miles driven in 2008 and the smaller drop in 2011 didn't slow the growth of auto insurance incurred losses

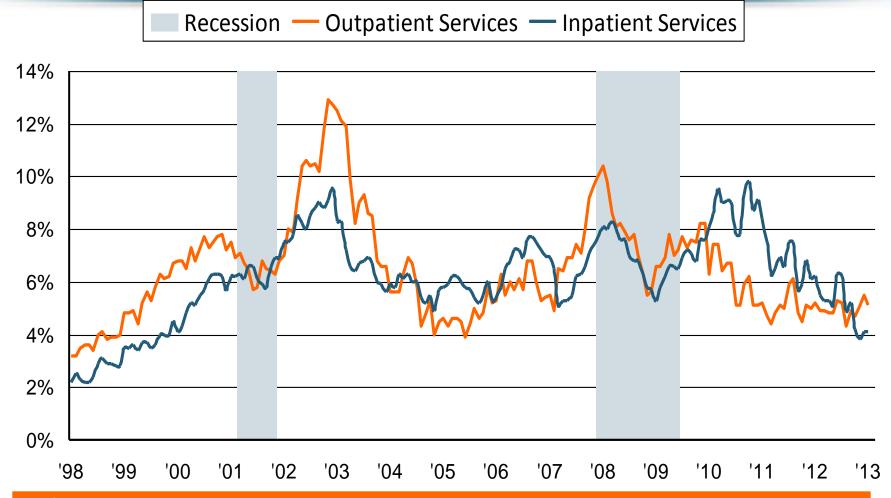
<sup>\*2012</sup> claims data is for twelve months ending September 2012.
Sources: Federal Highway Administration (<a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/tvtw/tvtpage.cfm">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/tvtw/tvtpage.cfm</a>; ISO Fast Track Monitoring System, Private Passenger Automobile Fast Track Data: 3rd Qtr. 2011, published January 8, 2013, and earlier reports.



#### **Inflation and Claims Trends**

#### Prices for Hospital Services: 12-Month Change,\* 1998–2013



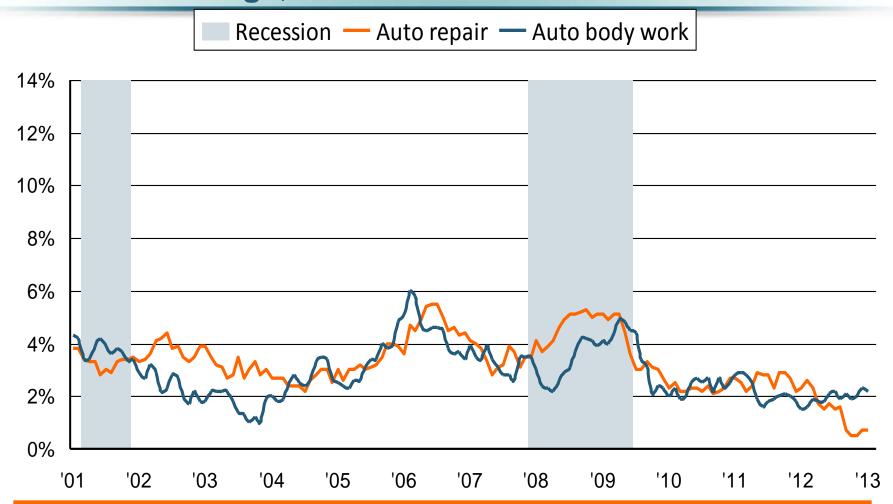


Cyclical peaks in PP Auto tend to occur approximately every 10 years (early 1990s, early 2000s, and possibly the early 2010s)

<sup>\*</sup>Percentage change from same month in prior year; through January 2013; seasonally adjusted Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics; National Bureau of Economic Research (recession dates); Insurance Information Institute.

#### Forces that Drive Car Repair Costs: 12-Month Change,\* 2001–2013





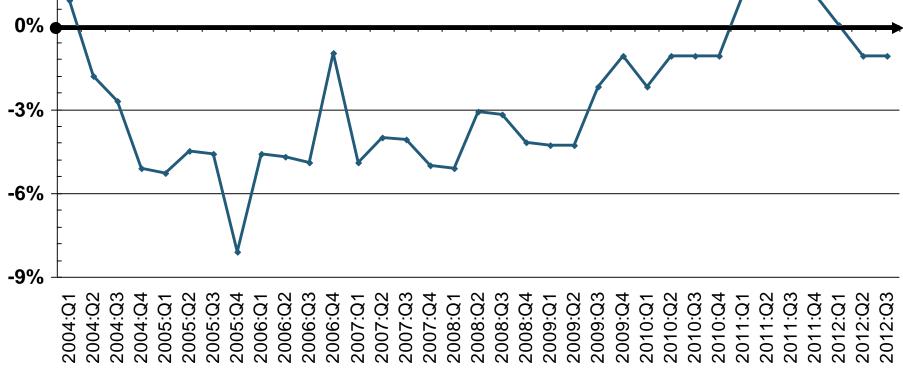
Cyclical peaks in PP Auto tend to occur approximately every 10 years (early 1990s, early 2000s, and possibly the early 2010s)

<sup>\*</sup>Percentage change from same month in prior year; through January 2013; seasonally adjusted Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics; National Bureau of Economic Research (recession dates); Insurance Information Institute.

#### PP Auto BI Liability Paid Claim Frequency\*, 2004:Q1-2012:Q3





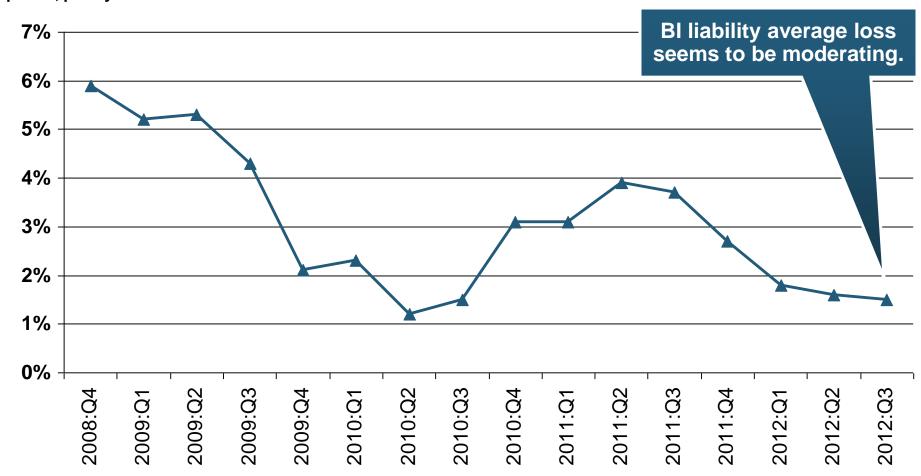


The frequency of PP Auto BI paid claims (paid claims as a percent of earned-car-years) fell (at a slowing rate) from 2004-2010, rose in 2011, fell again.

#### Trend in PP Auto BI Liability Average Loss\* 2008:Q4-2012:Q3



% Change from same quarter, prior year

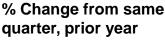


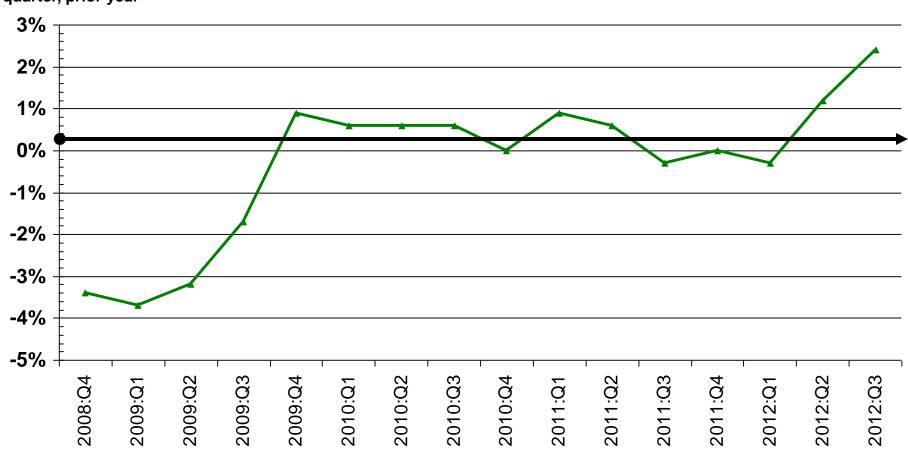
Source: ISO Fast Track data.

<sup>\*</sup>measured as % change from same quarter, prior year

#### PP Auto PD Liability Paid Claim Frequency\*, 2008:Q4-2012:Q3







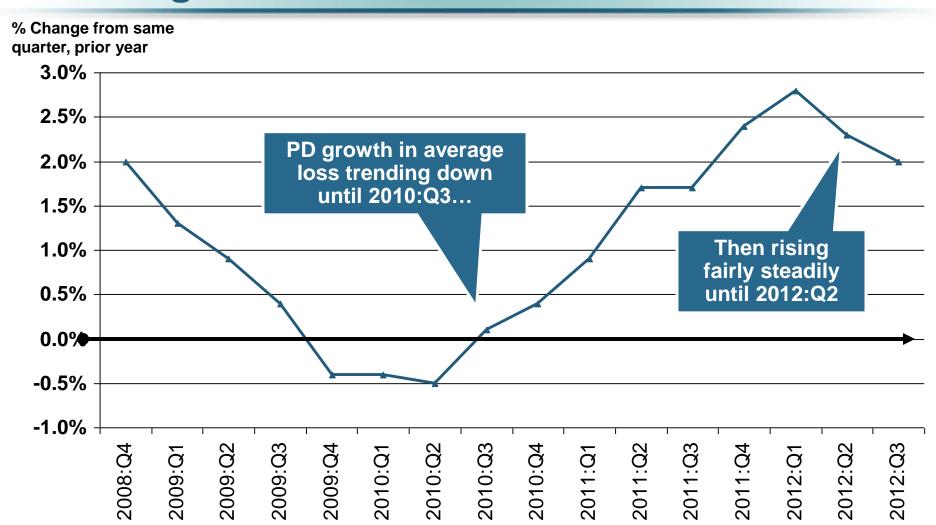
The frequency of PP Auto PD liability paid claims fell in 2008-09 but has been essentially flat 10 the last 12 quarters.

Source: ISO Fast Track data.

<sup>\*</sup>measured as % change from same quarter, prior year

#### Trend in PP Auto PD Liability Average Loss 2008:Q4-2012:Q3

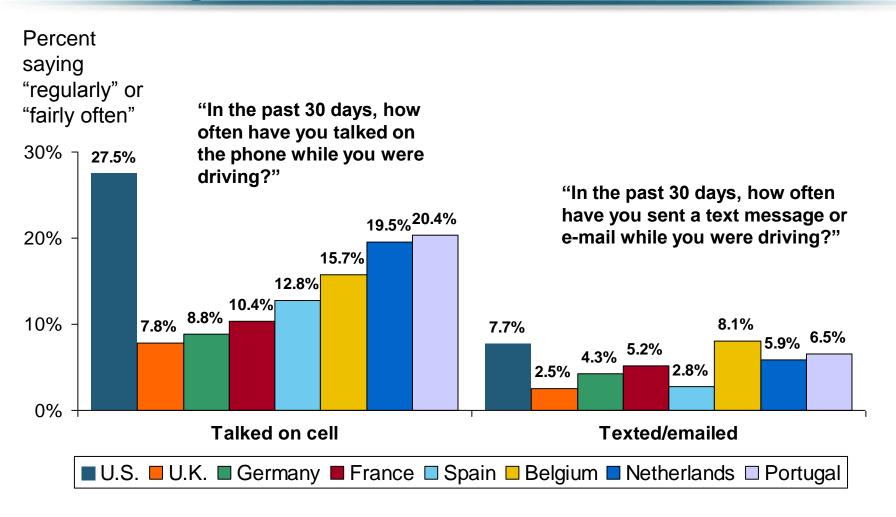




Source: ISO Fast Track data.

#### CDC Report: Cell Phone Use While Driving, US and Europe, Fall 2011





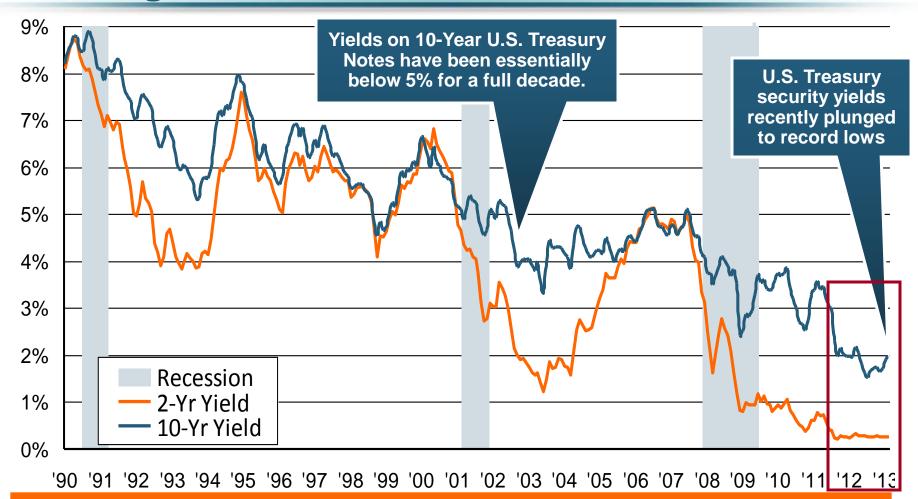
Sources: "Mobile Device Use While Driving—United States and Seven European Countries, 2011," in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vol. 62, No. 10, (March 15, 2013) available at <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6210a1.ht5m?scid=6210a1e">http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6210a1.ht5m?scid=6210a1e</a>; Insurance Information Institute



#### Investments

#### U.S. Treasury Security Yields\*: A Long Downward Trend, 1990–2013



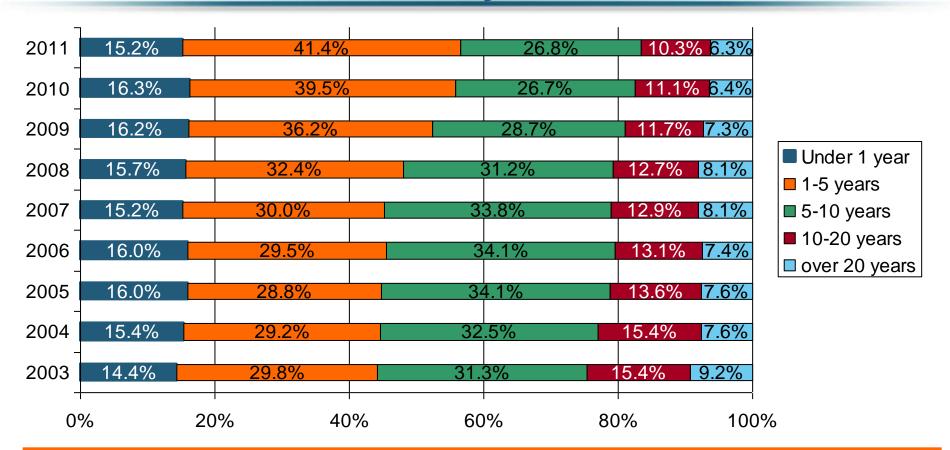


Since roughly 80% of P/C bond/cash investments are in 10-year or shorter durations, most P/C insurer portfolios will have low-yielding bonds for years to come.

<sup>\*</sup>Monthly, constant maturity, nominal rates, through Feb 2013.

#### Distribution of Bond Maturities, P/C Insurance Industry, 2003-2011





The main shift over these years has been from bonds with longer maturities to bonds with shorter maturities. The industry first trimmed its holdings of over-10-year bonds (from 24.6% in 2003 to 16.9% in 2011) and then trimmed bonds in the 5-10-year category. Falling average maturity of the P/C industry's bond portfolio is contributing to a drop in investment income along with lower yields.

#### **Insurance Information Institute Online:**

#### www.iii.org

## Thank you for your time and your attention!