

## Life Insurance Stress & Scenario Testing Survey 2013

Stress and Scenario Testing Working Party of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries



#### **Background to this Survey**

- This survey was devised by the Stress and Scenario Testing Working Party of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
- The main deliverable of the Working Party is a SIAS paper on Stress and Scenario Testing, scheduled for release in H2 2014
- This survey was launched to gather data to support the development of this paper
- The survey results are being released as an additional deliverable of the Working Party, as it is felt that these will be useful for many insurers
- The Working Party would like to thank all participants for their contributions
- Survey contact: Jennifer Chapin, Life & Health Practices Manager (jennifer.chapin@actuaries.org.uk)
- Conducted September October 2013



#### **SST Working Party**

#### Terms of reference

- Produce useful reference document for SST practitioners and stakeholders
- Enhance understanding of SST, its strengths and weaknesses
- Raise profile of SST
- Promote more debate within the actuarial profession on SST
- Bring insights on SST from outside the actuarial profession
- Promote development of SST concepts and approaches

#### Strategy and activity

- Collate intelligence and data
- Interact with other industry bodies, eg CRO Forum
- Learn from other industries
- Conduct more detailed work in areas of interest for paper in 2014



#### **SST Working Party (cont'd)**

#### Outputs:

- Past: Life Conference 2013 Presentation
- Present: These survey results
- Future: SIAS Paper on Stress and Scenario Testing (likely H2 2014)

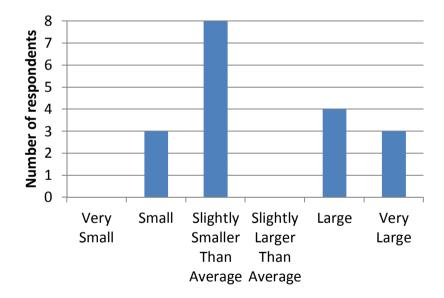
#### Membership at 11 November 2013:

Name	Company
David Leach (Chair)	Deloitte
Barbara Illingworth	Legal & General (Group)
Jessica Sum	Aviva (Group)
David Harrison	Admin Re
Paul Hopkins	Independent Consultant
Dan McGouran	Aviva UK Life
Kin Muck	Independent Consultant
Anthony Plotnek	EY
Ed Rayfield	Friends Life
Masimba Zata	LV=



#### **Survey Participants**

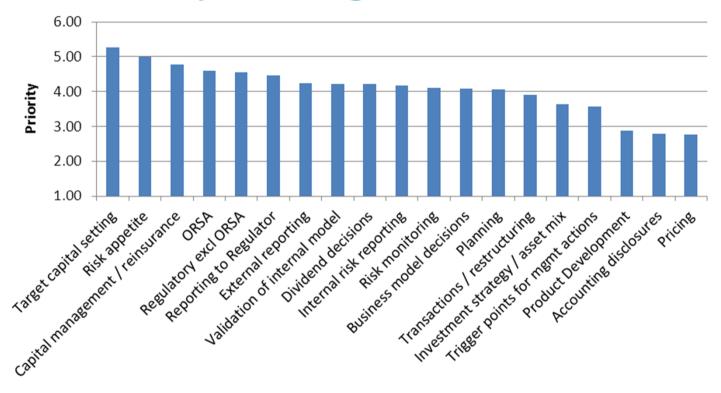
- 30 UK Life Insurers invited to participate, of which 18 responded
- Q20: "In your view, which of the following categories would best describe the size of your organization relative to other life insurers in the UK market?"



- In the following slides, insurers labelled A-R, responses have been randomised, so Firm A is not the same firm throughout
- Blanks in tables mean that no response was provided



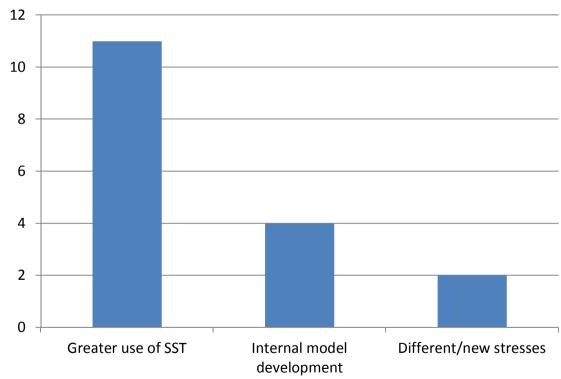
## 1. "What is stress and scenario testing used for in your organisation?"



- A score of 6 means high priority, a score of 1 means low priority.
- Priority results shown above are the mean across respondents that provided a priority for that category.



## 2. "What are the main changes you expect to see over the next 2 years?"



Number of firms responding: 17 Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

## 3. "Please rate the extent of involvement of the following groups at each stage of SST"

Average of All Responses	Risk identification	Setting stresses / scenarios	Defining mitigating actions	Quantitative assessment	Qualitative assessment	Review/ presentation / reporting of results
Board	3.1	4.2	3.6	2.0	2.0	5.0
Risk committee (or similar)	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.1	3.8	5.1
Risk (including actuarial function)	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.7
Risk (separate from the actuarial function)	5.2	4.4	4.8	4.2	5.1	5.2
Investment committee (or similar)	3.5	3.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8
Investment / asset management	3.5	3.0	3.5	3.8	3.3	4.0
Capital management	4.7	4.6	5.0	5.1	4.6	4.9
Specific stress & scenario testing committee / team	4.3	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.0	6.0
Pricing	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.7	3.2	3.7
Product development / marketing	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3
Claims / underwriting	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.0

Mean scores across all respondents, where a score of 6 means very involved and a score of 1 means limited involvement



# 3 – "Please rate the extent of involvement of the following groups at each stage of SST" (breakdown for smaller insurers)

Smaller Than Average Insurers	Risk identification	Setting stresses / scenarios	Defining mitigating actions	Quantitative assessment	Qualitative assessment	Review/ presentation/ reporting of results
Board	3.4	4.5	4.5	2.0	1.7	5.1
Risk committee (or similar)	4.3	4.3	4.4	3.3	3.9	4.9
Risk (including actuarial function)	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.9	5.8	5.9
Risk (separate from the actuarial function)	5.9	4.4	4.9	4.0	5.3	5.1
Investment committee (or similar)	3.3	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.2
Investment / asset management	3.3	2.8	3.5	3.8	3.5	4.7
Capital management	4.4	4.1	4.6	4.3	4.0	4.5
Specific stress & scenario testing committee / team	5.0	6.0	5.0	2.0	5.0	6.0
Pricing	3.2	2.8	2.6	4.3	3.3	4.7
Product development / marketing	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.0
Claims / underwriting	2.0	2.0	2.0		2.0	

Mean scores across respondents self-identified as smaller than average. A score of 6 means very involved and a score of 1 means limited involvement



#### 3 – "Please rate the extent of involvement of the following groups at each stage of SST" (breakdown for larger insurers)

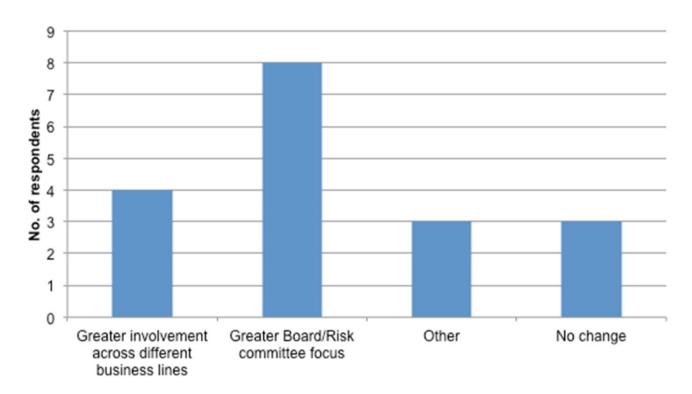
Larger Than Average Insurers	Risk identification	Setting stresses / scenarios	Defining mitigating actions	Quantitative assessment	Qualitative assessment	Review/ presentation/ reporting of results
Board	2.3	3.8	2.2	2.0	2.3	4.9
Risk committee (or similar)	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.0	3.8	5.3
Risk (including actuarial function)	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.4
Risk (separate from the actuarial function)	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.4	5.0	5.2
Investment committee (or similar)	4.0	3.7	4.5	3.8	4.3	4.5
Investment / asset management	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.0	3.5
Capital management	5.2	5.2	5.5	6.0	5.3	5.3
Specific stress & scenario testing committee / team	4.0	4.5	5.5	6.0	5.0	6.0
Pricing	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.7
Product development / marketing	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.5
Claims / underwriting	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Mean scores across respondents self-identified as larger than average.

A score of 6 means very involved and a score of 1 means limited involvement



# 4. "What are the main changes you expect to see over the next 2 years and what are the key drivers of change?"



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Number of firms responding: 18

#### 5. "What metrics are stressed currently?"

Firm	Solvency I capital	Solvency II capital	PRA's early warning indicator factor	Economic capital	Rating / respectability capital	IFRS profits	Embedded value	Liquidity	Debt repayment	Other
А	6	1	1	6		6	5	4	1	
В	4	3	2	3		5	4	4		
С	6	5		6						
D	6	3	2	2	1	4	6	2	6	
Е	6	6	2	6	2	2	3	4		
F	5			6		3				2
G	2	5	1	5	2	2	3	1	1	
Н	6	4		6						
I	6	4	1	4		4		4	3	
J	4	2	2	6	4	3	3	5	5	
K	6	3	1	5	2	4	4	4	4	
L	6	2	4	4	4		4	6	4	
M	6	2	2	6	4	3	1	2	4	
N	6			2	4			4	3	
0	6	1				2	4		6	
Р	6	6		6				4	6	
Q	6			5	2		3	3		
R	4	1	1	6						
Smaller Firms	5.6	3.2	1.6	5.2	3.0	3.6	3.3	3.6	4.0	
Larger Firms	5.0	3.2	1.8	4.6	2.6	3.3	4.0	3.7	3.8	2.0
Overall	5.4	3.2	1.7	4.9	2.8	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.9	2.0

A score of 6 means high priority, a score of 1 means low priority The respondent citing 'other' indicated this to be capacity to pay dividend



## 5. (cont'd) "How do you expect this to differ in 2 years time?"

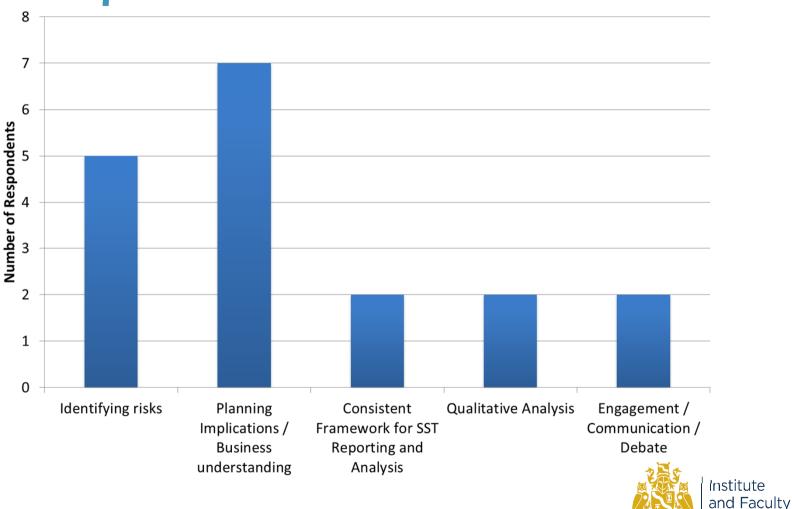
Firm	Solvency I capital	Solvency II capital	PRA's early warning indicator factor	Economic capital	Rating / respectability capital	IFRS profits	Embedded value	Liquidity	Debt repayment	Other
А		6	6	4	6		4	6	4	
В	6	4	4	4	1	4	6	3	6	
С	4	6		6						
D	6	6	5	6	4	6	5	5		
E	6	3	5	6		6	5	4	4	
F	6	5	1	5	2	4	4	4	4	
G	2	5	4	5		5	3	5		
Н	1	4	4	6						
I		6	6	5		4		4	5	
J	6	6		6	4	2	4		6	
K	5	4	5	5	5		5	5		
L	6	6		6				4	6	
M	2	5		6						
N	4	4	3	5	2	2	3	1	1	
0	6	5			4			4	3	
Р	2	6	4	6		5			3	2
Q	6	3	6	6	4	2	4	4	4	
R	2	6	3	6	5	3	3	6		
Smaller Firms	4.5	4.8	4.8	5.8	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.6	
Larger Firms	4.0	5.3	3.9	5.0	3.2	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.8	2.0
Overall	4.4	5.0	4.3	5.5	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.2	2.0

A score of 6 means high priority, a score of 1 means low priority

The respondent citing 'other' indicated this to be capacity to pay dividend



## 6a. "What do users find most useful from the SST processes?"

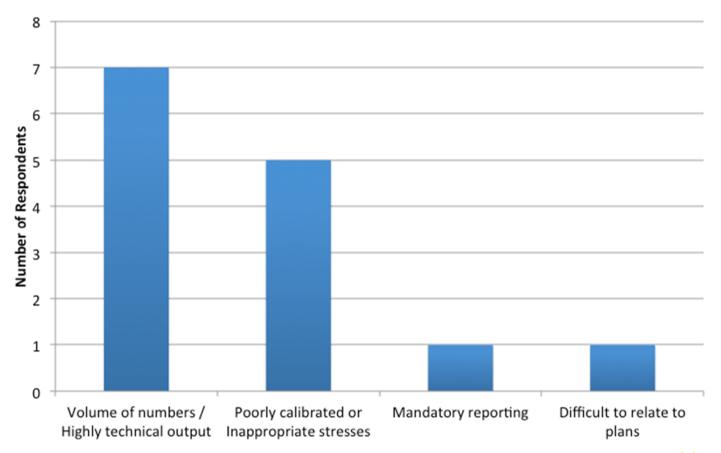


Number of firms responding: 18

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## 6b. "What do users find least useful from the SST processes?"



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Number of firms responding: 14

#### 6c. "What do users want more of?"

'Real' scenarios Clear recommendations and analysis Actions for management More involvement across the business Greater range of scenarios Risk sensitivities, projections and 'what-if' results Faster reporting

Number of firms responding: 16



#### 6d. "What do users want less of?"

Tables of numbers

Regulatory reporting

Limited analysis

Extreme stress tests and scenarios

Number of bases to compare

Prescriptive stresses that have little relevance



Number of firms responding: 13

## 7. "To what extent have emerging regulatory requirements for SST":

	Influenced what stress and	Limited the stress and scenario	Improved your understanding and
Firm	scenario testing is performed	testing you would like to perform	management of the business?
Α	3	2	2
В	5	4	2
С	4	3	3
D	5	1	6
E	4	2	2
F	3	1	3
G	2	1	1
Н	4	3	4
I	4	2	4
J	6	1	4
K	6	1	6
L	4	1	4
M	5	5	4
N	5	1	3
0	3	1	2
P	4	1	2
Q	4	3	4
R	4	1	2
Smaller Firms	4.0	1.5	3.0
Larger Firms	4.4	2.4	3.6
Overall	4.2	1.9	3.2

A score of 6 means to a very high extent, a score of 1 means to a very low extent



## 8. "Which of the following are important for setting the stresses/scenarios?"

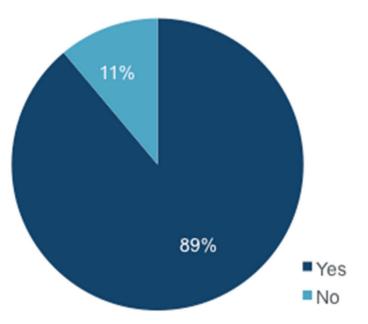
	Views from external	Views from			Analysis by ratings	
Firm	experts e.g. academics	internal experts	Benchmarking	Peer analysis	agencies, banks	Other
А	3	6	3	4	4	
В		5				
С	3	6	4	4	1	
D	2	6	2		2	6
Е	4	6	3	2	1	
F	4	5	3	5	4	
G	5	5	5	3	3	
Н	2	6	5	4	2	
I	3	4	3	2		
J	4	6	6	6		
K	5	6	5	4	5	
L	4	2	4	4	1	4
M		6	4	4		
N	4	4	4	4		
0	4	4	3	3	1	
Р	2	5	3	2		
Q	4	6	5	5	4	
R	2	6	5	5		4
Smaller Firms	3.6	5.5	4.2	3.8	3.0	4.0
Larger Firms	3.2	4.7	3.5	3.8	2.0	5.0
Overall	3.4	5.2	3.9	3.8	2.5	4.7

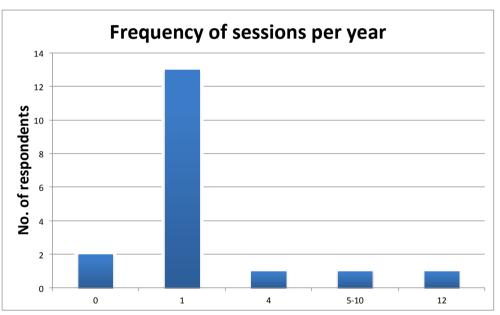
Other influences cited were the regulator and management.

A score of 6 means very high importance, a score of 1 means very low importance.



# 9. "Do you run a session or sessions involving different functions where potential risk scenarios are discussed, in order to inform the scenario setting?"

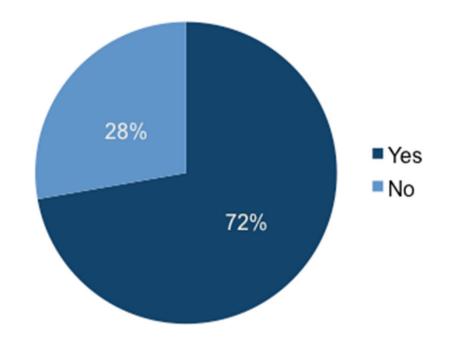




Number of firms responding: 18



10. "Do you assign probabilities to stresses/scenarios?"



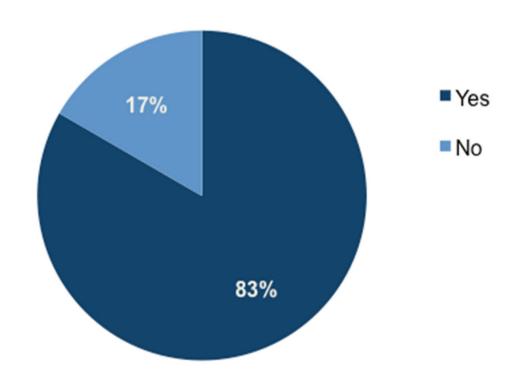
"When do you not assign probabilities and why?"

- When costs outweigh benefits
- When it is purely speculative
- When it is not necessary for the use of results
- When there is not sufficient information



Number of firms responding: 18

# 11. "Do you show the impact of stresses/scenarios before and after the impact of management actions?"



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Number of firms responding: 18

## 12. "What types of mitigating actions do you allow for in quantifying the impact of a stress/scenario that reduce capital requirements under stress?"

**Mitigating** 

actions

reducing

capital

requirements

Changing future product design, ALM activity

Changing bonus rates, using reinsurance, hedging

Refining new business strategy, use of hedging, reinsurance, swaps

Reducing with-profits equity backing ratio

Revising mortality charges for linked protection business

Formally agreed management actions

Changing the asset portfolio, business volumes, risk transfer

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Number of firms responding: 14

#### 13. "What types of mitigating actions do you allow for in quantifying the impact of a stress/scenario that increase capital resources under stress?"

**Mitigating** 

actions

increasing

capital

resources

Transferring capital between internal entities

Utilising funding agreement with parent company

Switching assets to improve quality

portfolio, business volumes, risk transfer Reducing dividends, injecting capital into subsidiaries.

Reducing enhancements on with-profits business

Reactive trading

Management actions agreed by the Board

Changing the asset



Number of firms responding: 14

# 14. "What types of management actions are disclosed in reports as being available but the impact of which is not quantified?"

Closure to new business

Reduction of bonuses

Requesting capital from parent

De-risk pension scheme

Review of margins

Change in asset mix

Reduction of WP pay-outs

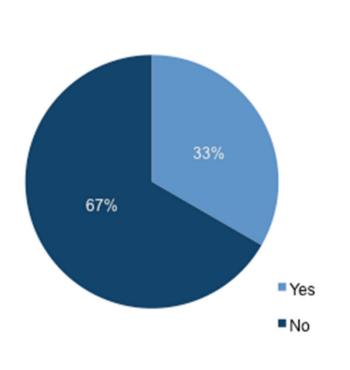
Change in strategy

Increase solvency monitoring

Number of firms responding: 15



## 15. "Do you use war-gaming as part of your SST process?"



#### If yes, why?

- Greater understanding
- Different perspectives
- Identifying areas of improvement

#### If no, why?

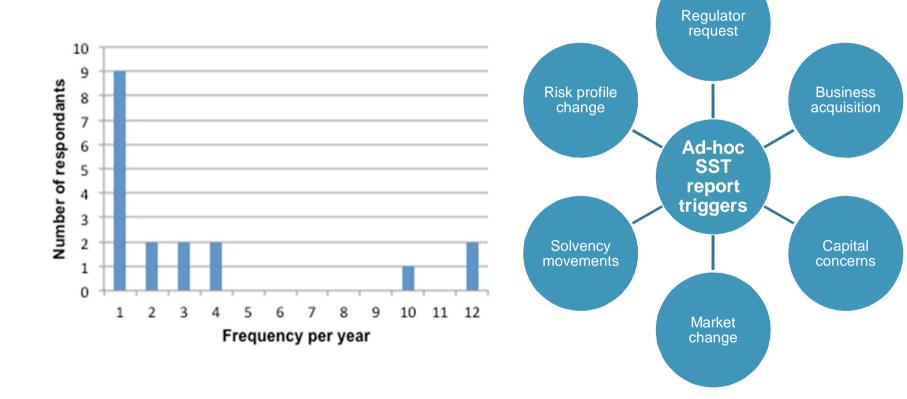
- Business continuity testing carried out
- May be considered under new framework

Definition of war-gaming - testing the firm's response in a simulated crisis situation, including dimensions such as information flow, speed, organisation, leadership and communication.

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Number of firms responding: 18

16. "How often/why are reports produced for Management on SST?"



Number of firms responding: 18

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## 17. "To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements?"

	risks the firm is	b) Material approximations, reliances and limitations of SST are well documented and understood by	challenge to the		e) SST is a compliance	f) SST is an action-based	g) SST results are compared against risk	h) Risk preferences are influenced by
Firm	exposed to	Management	SST process	stakeholders	exercise	exercise	appetite	SST results
A	6	4	4	6	6	5	6	5
В	6	6	4	4	1	3	6	4
С	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
D	6	3	3	5	2	3	3	2
Е	6	4	4	4	1	5	6	4
F	6	6	4	3	1	3	1	3
G	4	3	5	4	4		3	3
Н	6	2	3	3	2	4	3	3
I	5	4	5	5	2	4	5	4
J	6	4	6		4	3	4	4
K	6	4	4	6	2	2	5	5
L	6	3	4	4	2	5	3	4
M	4	3	4	3	1	3	6	2
N	5	3	3	3	2	4	5	4
0	4	3	2	4	4		5	5
Р	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	5
Q	4	4	4	5	2	4	6	4
R	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	4
Smaller Firms	5.5	4.0	4.3	4.2	2.5	3.8	3.9	3.6
Larger Firms	4.7	3.6	3.7	4.0	2.7	3.3	5.0	4.1
Overall	5.2	3.8	4.1	4.1	2.6	3.6	4.3	3.8

A score of 6 means strongly agree, a score of 1 means strongly disagree



## 18. "What are the main challenges of SST in your organization?"

		b) Recalibration of scenario generator	c) Assessment of	d) Presenting results	e) Making SST	f) Lack of	
	a) Appropriate stress	under stressed	Impact of selected	/ insights from SST in	relevant to business	time /	
Firm	& scenario selection	conditions	stresses / scenarios	an effective way	decisions	resources	g) Other
	_	Conditions	3ti e33e3 / 3tellalio3	an enective way	decisions		g) Other
A	5			3	1	3	
В	4		2	2	5	5	
С	2	2	3	5	3	6	
D	5	2	4	3	4	5	
E	5	2	2	2	4	4	
F	4	3	5	3	4	4	
G	3	6	3	3	4	3	
Н	3	4	2	5	5	5	
I	4	4	3	5	5	6	
J	5	5	5	4	4	4	
K	5	2	3	3	3	4	
L	4	4	5	4	4	5	
М	3		5	3	4	4	5
N	5	5	2	2	3	4	
0	2	3	3	3	2	4	
Р	3		3	2	5	3	
Q	4		3	4	4	4	
R	6		3	4	4	5	
Smaller Firms	4.4	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.5	4.3	
Larger Firms	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.4	4.1	4.4	5.0
Overall	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.8	4.3	5.0

The 'other' challenge noted by a respondent was allowing for management actions A score of 6 means very challenging, a score of 1 means not challenging



## 19a. "How do you rate your SST processes relative to your peers?"

Firm	Risk identification	Setting stresses / scenarios	Defining mitigating actions	Quantitative assessment	Qualitative assessment	Presentation / reporting of results
Α	3	3	3	3	3	3
В	3	3	3	3	3	3
С	4	2	5	4	3	4
D	4	4	4	4	4	4
Е	4	4	4	4	4	4
F	3	3	2	3	3	3
G	5	4	4	5	4	3
Н	5	4	4	4	4	4
I	2	2	3	4	3	4
J	4	3	3	3	4	5
К	4	4	4	4	4	4
L	3	3	4	5	4	4
M	4	4	4	4	4	5
N	4	2	4	3	4	3
0	3	3	3	3	3	3
P	4	4	4	3	4	3
Q	4	3	3	3	4	4
R	5	4	3	4	4	4
Smaller Firms	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.7
Larger Firms	4.0	3.4	3.9	4.1	3.7	3.7
Overall	3.8	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7

A score of 6 means far ahead of peers, a score of 1 means far behind peers



# 19b. "How much development of your SST processes do you expect in the next 2 years?"

	Risk	Setting stresses	Defining mitigating	Quantitative	Qualitative	Presentation / reporting of
Firm	identification	/ scenarios	actions	assessment	assessment	results
Α	3	3	2	4	3	4
В	4	4	4	5	5	4
С	2	2	2	5	2	1
D	5	4	4	4	3	4
E	4	4	4	4	4	3
F	2	2	2	4	2	2
G	3	3	4	2	3	3
Н	2	4	3	2	2	2
I	3	4	4	4	3	4
J	4	4	4	4	4	4
K	2	5	2	6	2	5
L	4	4	3	3	3	3
М	1	3	4	2	3	5
N	5	5	5	5	5	5
0	2	5	3	3	3	4
Р	2	3	1	3	4	3
Q	5	5	2	4	4	5
R	3	3	5	4	4	4
Smaller Firms	3.0	3.7	3.0	4.0	3.4	3.5
Larger Firms	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.7
Overall	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.8	3.3	3.6

A score of 6 means very significant development, a score of 1 means no development



# 19c. "Do you see any leading practices in SST that are underused in the life insurance industry?"

Use of timely 'ad hoc' SST rather than rigid slower frameworks

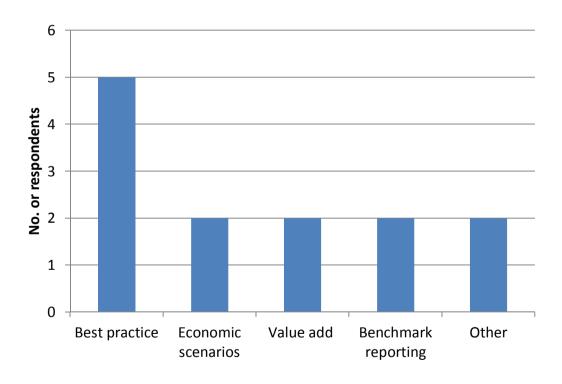
Multivariate reverse stress testing

Approach to RST is too financial focused across industry – the business can be unviable for other reasons

Number of firms responding: 3



## 19d. "In which areas do you think the SST Working Party should be focussing its efforts?"



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Number of firms responding: 13