



It's Strategy Time: Is Your Underwriting Appetite Positioned for Profitable Growth?

**Verisk Webinar Series
Presented by Underwriting Solutions**

6/06/2022

Today's Speaker



Eric Price-Glynn

Senior Principal and Head of the Division
MarketStance, a Verisk Business

Eric oversees the development of tools that provide highly granular estimates of market opportunities in commercial lines.

He specializes in analyzing the consequences of macroeconomic and social trends for lines of business by location, size, and industry of account, and capitalizing on the breadth of available data for modeling commercial lines.



Strategy, Underwriting Appetite, and Market Data

Commercial Market Underwriting Appetite

A key strategic* output

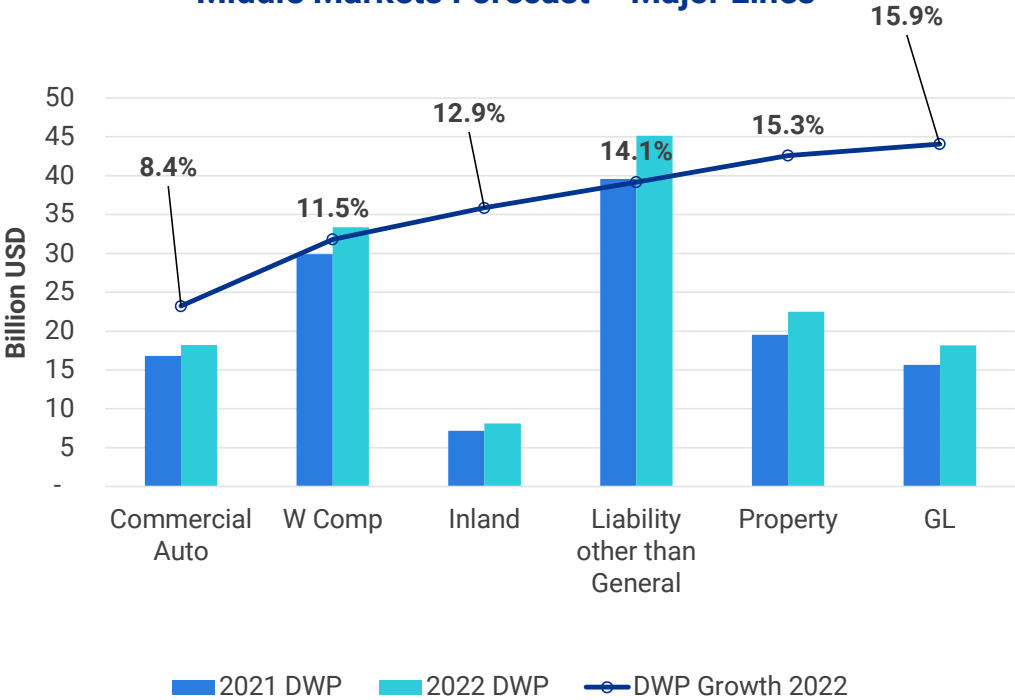
What is your underwriting appetite?

- Lines of business
- Account sizes
- States/counties
- Classes of business

Given your underwriting appetite

- What makes your products distinctive?
- What capabilities give you a competitive advantage?
- How will you sustain these advantages?

Middle Markets Forecast – Major Lines



*See David Kryscynski, "What is Strategy?" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD7WSLeQtVw>)

Source: Verisk / MarketStance

Commercial Lines Strategy

Rethinking Risk Post-Pandemic

Strategic planning is expected to be even more vital for commercial lines insurers post-pandemic given the scope of the disruption and the still-evolving nature of the threat.



The Challenge for Commercial Lines: Growing Profitably in a Dynamic Market

Only 13 percent of carriers believe they have the data needed to effectively drive strategy and growth initiatives*



48 percent of carriers require better data resources and visualization tools**

Respondents of a 2019 SIR study defined the primary functions of market research as:

Driving informed business decisions	Expanding the viewpoint and perspectives of senior management and other departments	Representing the voice of the customer	Identifying new business opportunities	Driving change
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*PC360 and ISO MarketStance 2019 Survey
 **Society of Insured Research (SIR) and Zeldis Research 2019 Survey

Market Data

Where does it come from now?

Book of business

Annual statements

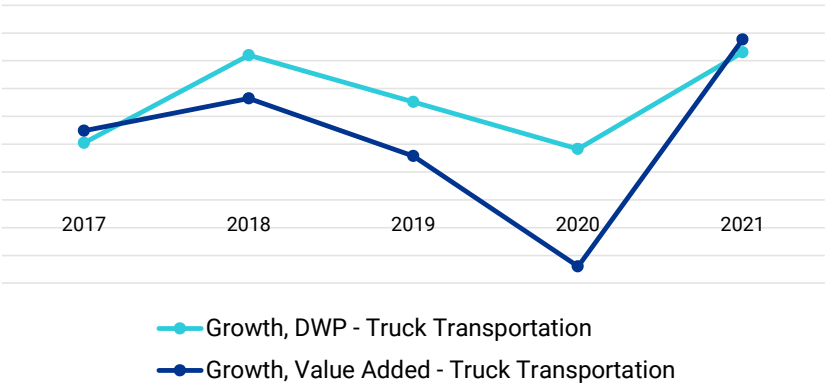
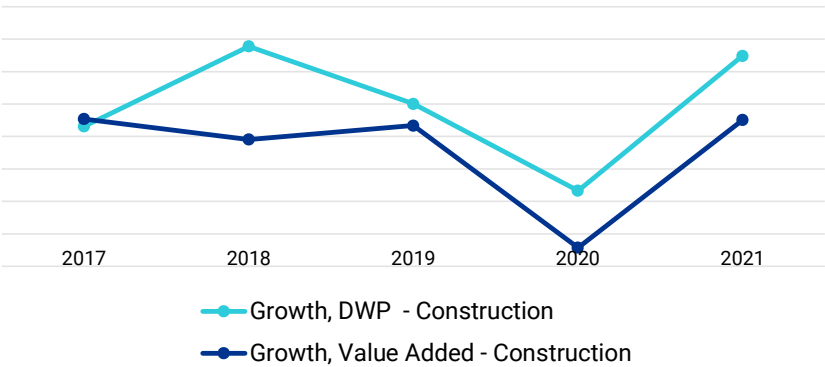
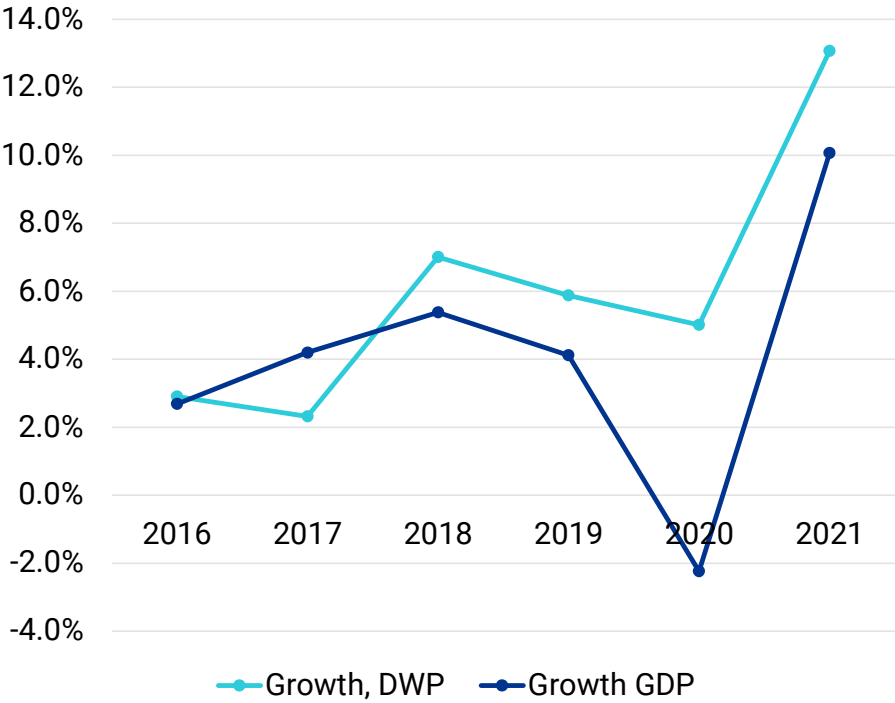
Economic forecasts

Surveys and specialty publications



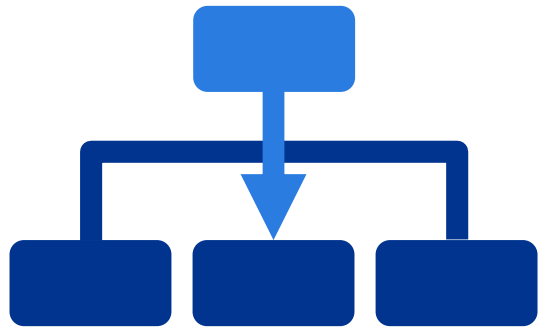
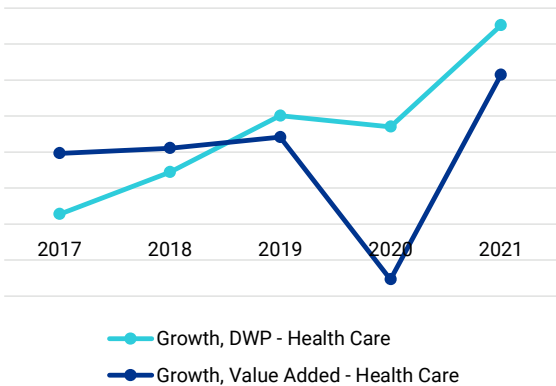
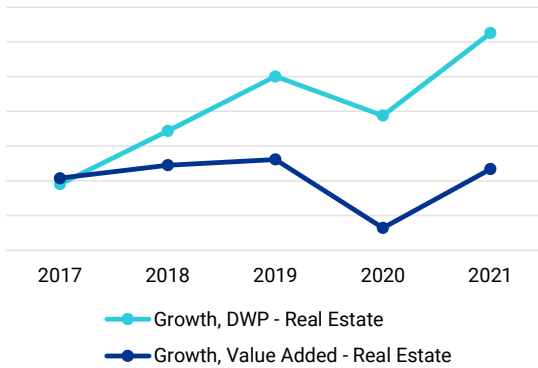
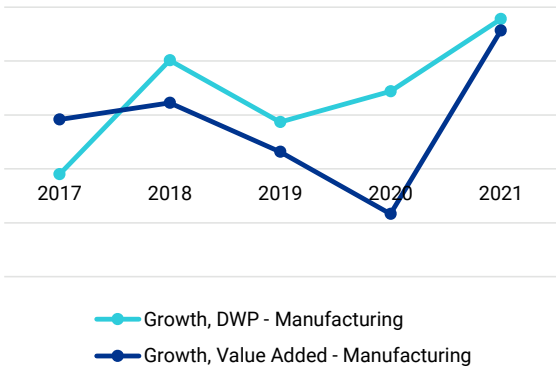
Understanding the Market: Top-Down or Bottom-Up?

GDP, Commercial Lines DWP Growth Is Well Correlated . . .



Source: Verisk / MarketStance, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

... But Correlations Are Weaker in Critical Sectors



GDP growth, Total CL premium growth well-correlated (0.70)

Some key correlations:

- Construction (0.76)
- Trucking (0.94)

Several CL drivers, less so

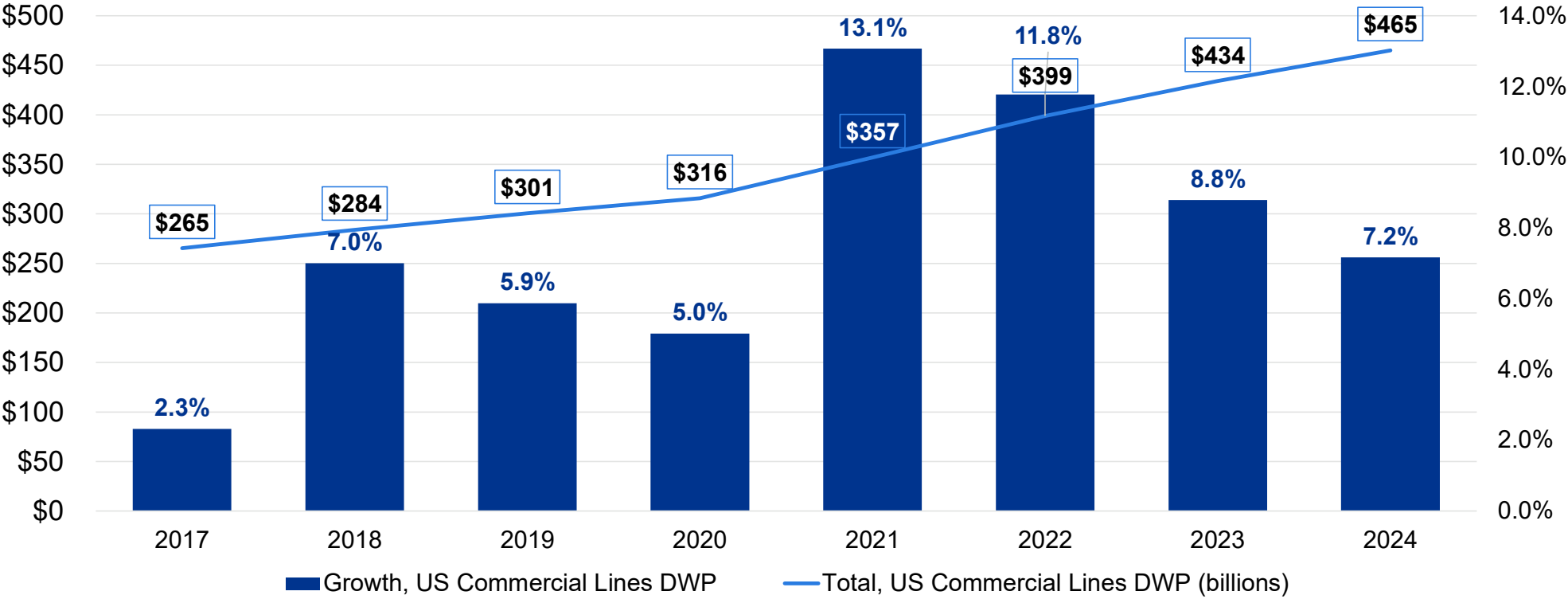
- Manufacturing (0.49)
- Health Care (0.37)
- Real Estate (0.22)

Top-down GDP forecasts may provide less actionable information for CL

US Commercial Lines Forecast

Source: Verisk / MarketStance

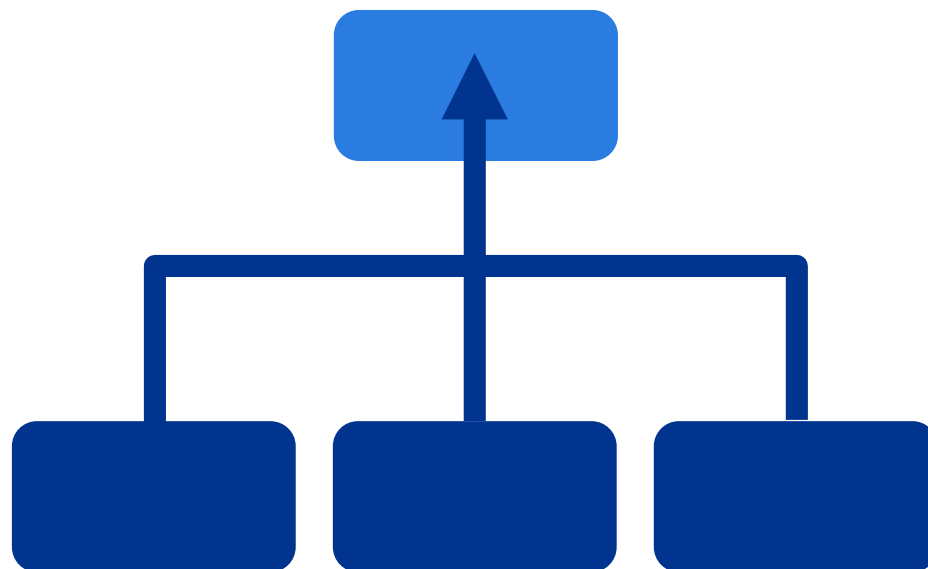
US Commercial Lines DWP 2017-24



US Commercial Lines Forecast

A bottom-up approach

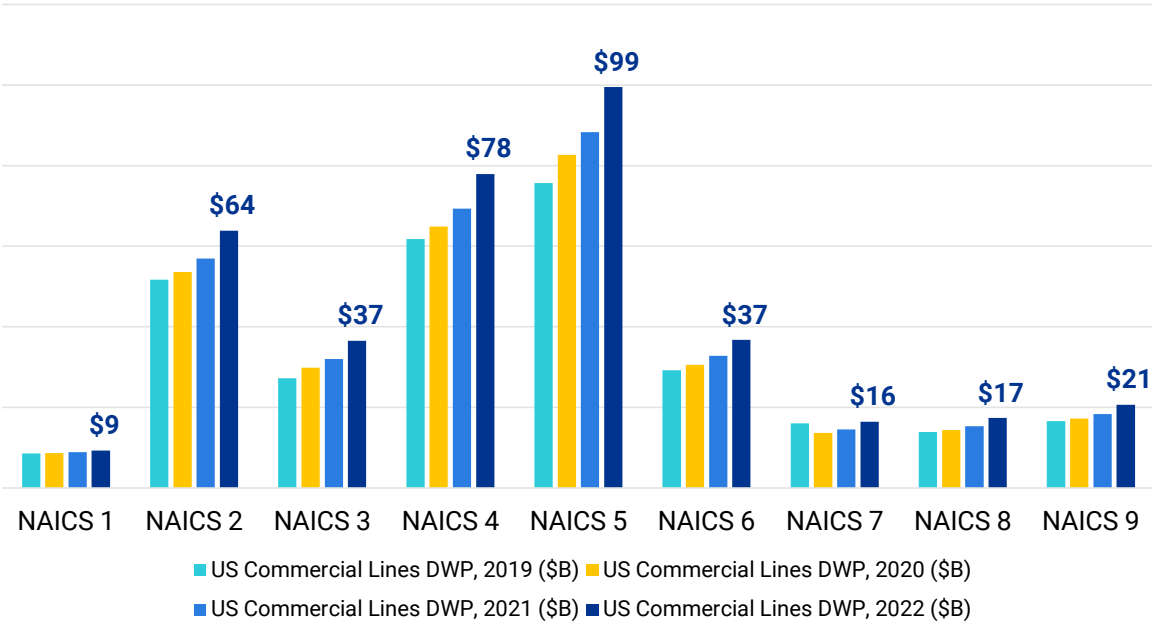
- Over 4.5 million risk clusters, anchored in the bedrock of federal business statistics, industry data
 - Size
 - County
 - Industry
- For each risk cluster:
 - Premium and exposure base forecasts by LOB, including core, specialty
 - Credibility adjusted reference year losses for core (excluding workers' compensation) and composite
- Updated / refined monthly
- Benchmarked to annual statements, supplements





Needed: Actionable Market Information

US Commercial Lines Forecast by 1-Digit Industry



NAICS 1: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
NAICS 2: Construction, Utilities, and Mining
NAICS 3: Manufacturing
NAICS 4: Trade, Transportation, and Warehousing
NAICS 5: Information, Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, and Professional and Business Services

NAICS 6: Educational Services, Healthcare, and Social Assistance
NAICS 7: Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Service
NAICS 8: Other Services
NAICS 9: State and Local Government

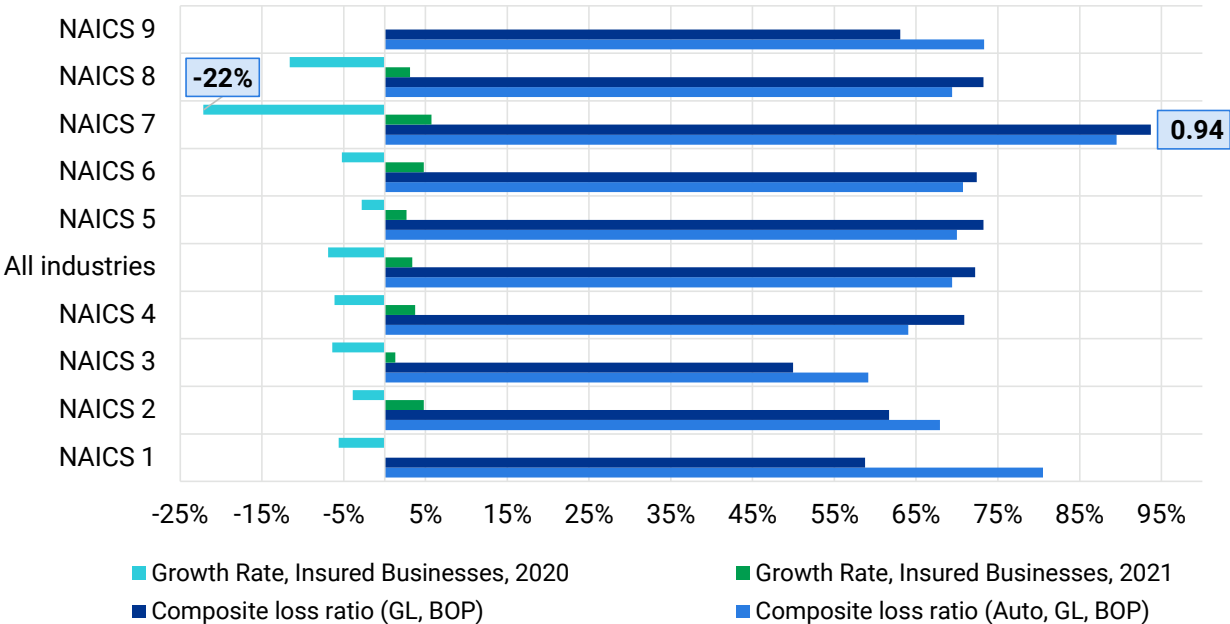
Key insights:

- High COVID-impact sectors -- restaurants, hotels, entertainment, personal services (NAICS 7 & 8) not CL premium drivers
- Core CL sectors – NAICS 2, 4, 5 – 2021 growth expected to be 6.3% versus 4.2% in 2020, accelerating to ~12% in 2022
- Core CL outgrew the rest of the market in 2020 by 3.9 percent
- 2021-22 *far more broadly based* both core/noncore growing ~12 percent in 2022

Understanding and acting on industry, geographic differences and tailwinds can help make all the difference in growing top-line DWP

Source: Verisk / MarketStance

2020 Small Commercial Account Growth, Profitability by 1-Digit Industry



NAICS 1: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
NAICS 2: Construction, Utilities, and Mining
NAICS 3: Manufacturing
NAICS 4: Trade, Transportation, and Warehousing
NAICS 5: Information, Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, and Professional and Business Services

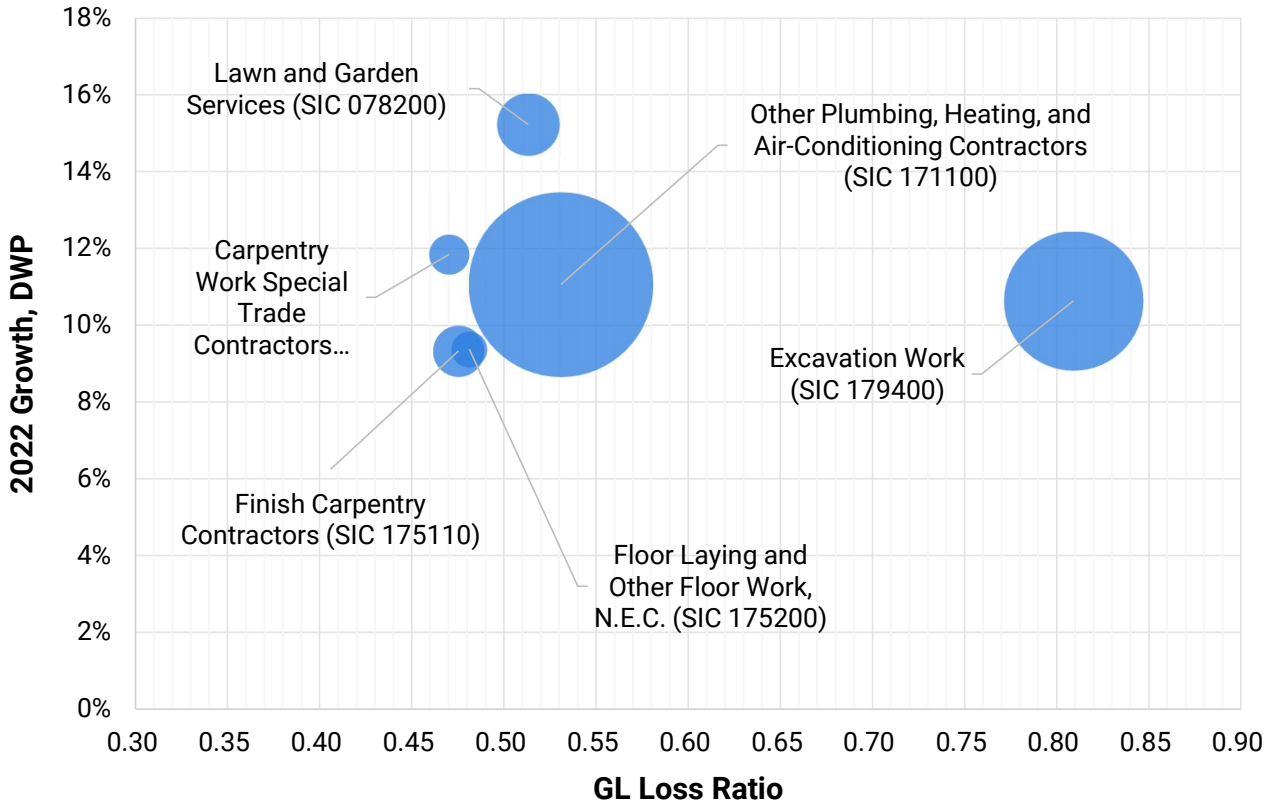
NAICS 6: Educational Services, Healthcare, and Social Assistance
NAICS 7: Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Service
NAICS 8: Other Services
NAICS 9: State and Local Government

Key insights:

- Over 400k small commercial (1-49 employee) accounts were lost in 2020 – about half of them in NAICS 7 & 8
- Small commercial accounts in high COVID-impact sectors (restaurants, hotels) have had profitability challenges, pre-COVID (composite LR>0.9)
- Apart from construction, commercial auto did not drive small commercial composite (GL, BOP, Auto) loss experience prior to the pandemic

MarketStance Growth and Profitability Sample: Select Contractors

**General Liability DPW (bil.)
Select Contractors**



Source: Verisk / MarketStance
Verisk Webinar Series

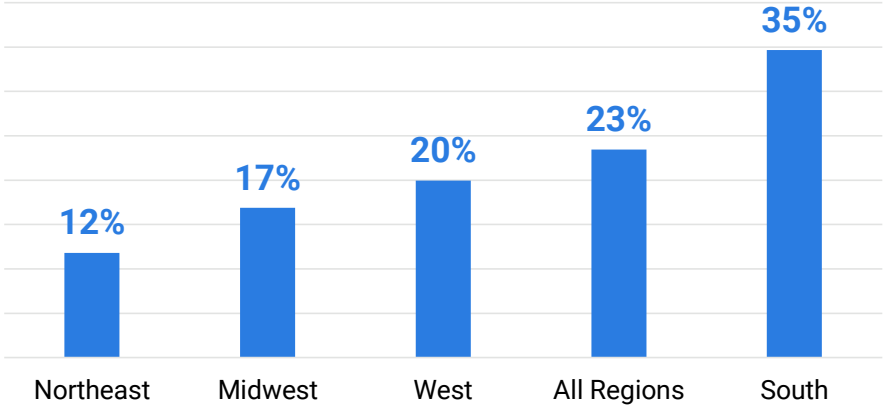
Your Appetite and Start-Up Activity

Historically Strong Business Formation 2022-23

Reflects U.S. Census projections of new business formation in the next 4-8 quarters
 South leading the way, but all regions are far above average

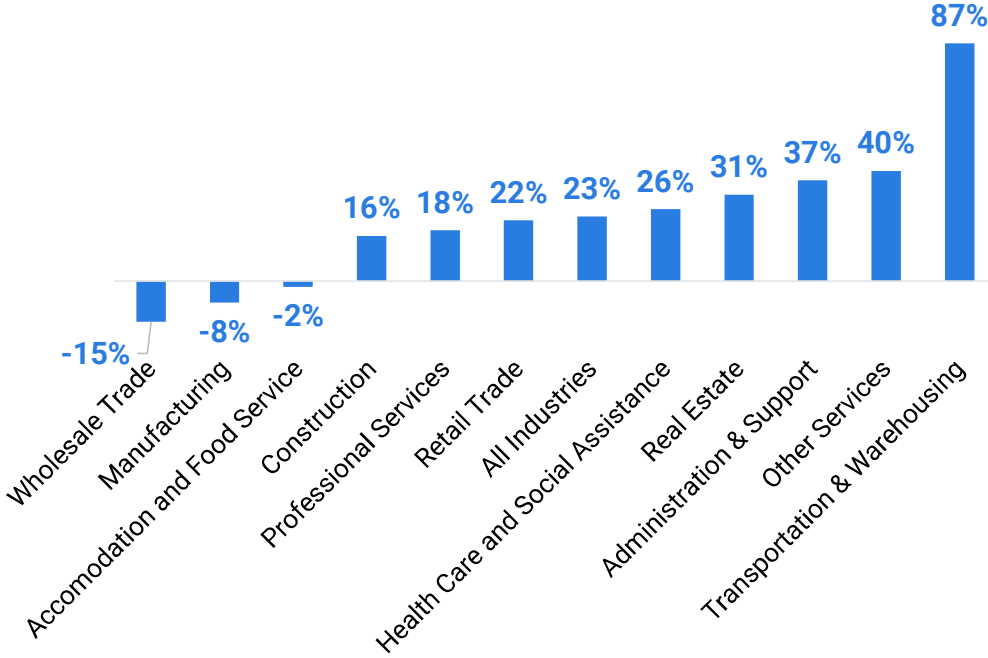
2-Year Business Formation, U.S. Regions

■ Pct. (+/-) long-term average since April 2020



2-Year Business Formation, Select Industries

■ Pct. (+/-) long-term average since April 2020

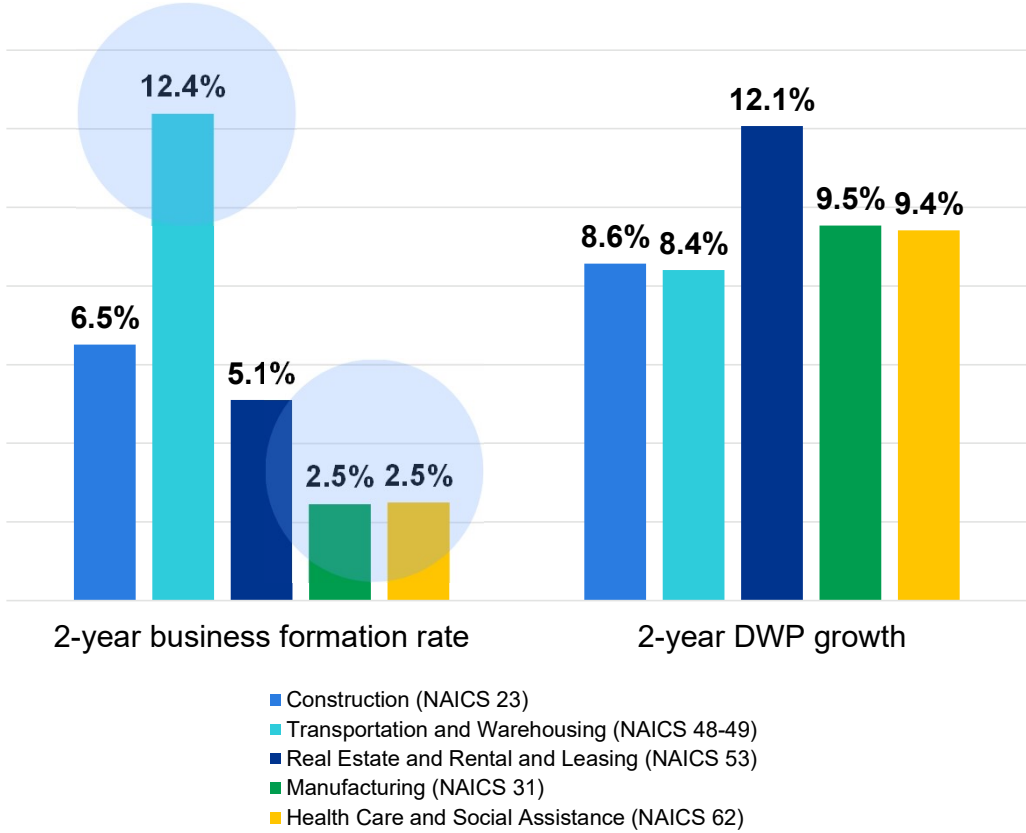
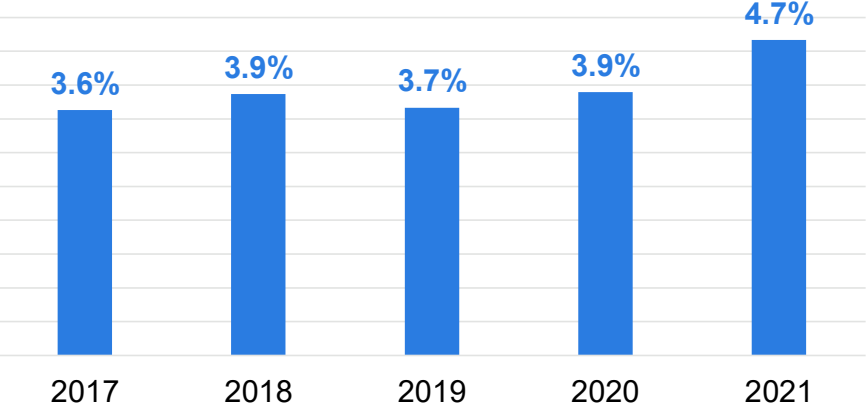


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

A Closer Look at Business Formation and the Top Five Commercial Lines Sectors

- Emphasis of top-line premium growth
- **Competing over new business**
 - Transportation
- **Competing over existing accounts**
 - Manufacturing, health care

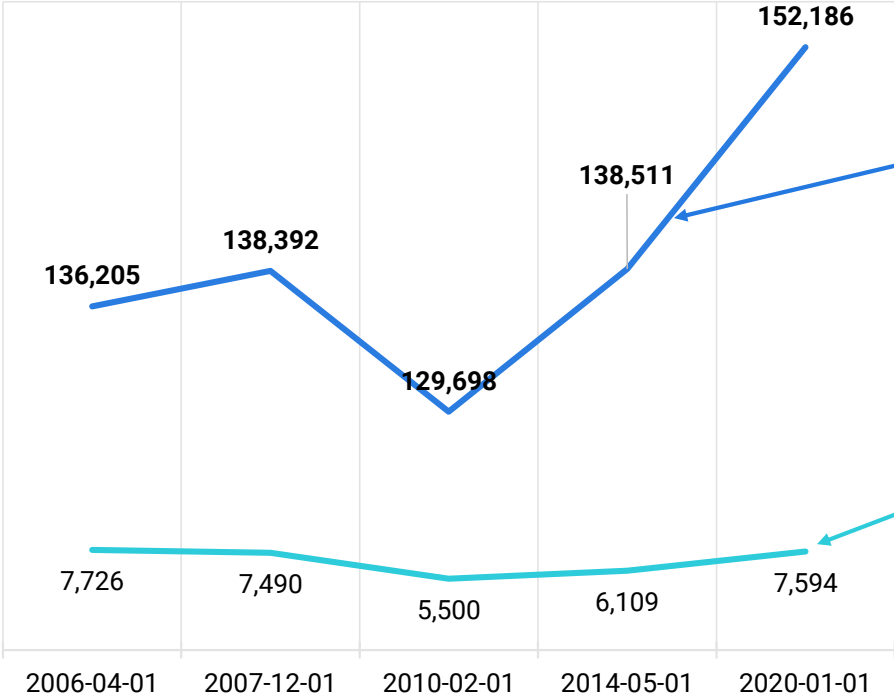
**United States:
2-year business formation rate**



Your Appetite and Construction

Before COVID, Construction Below Prior Peaks . . .

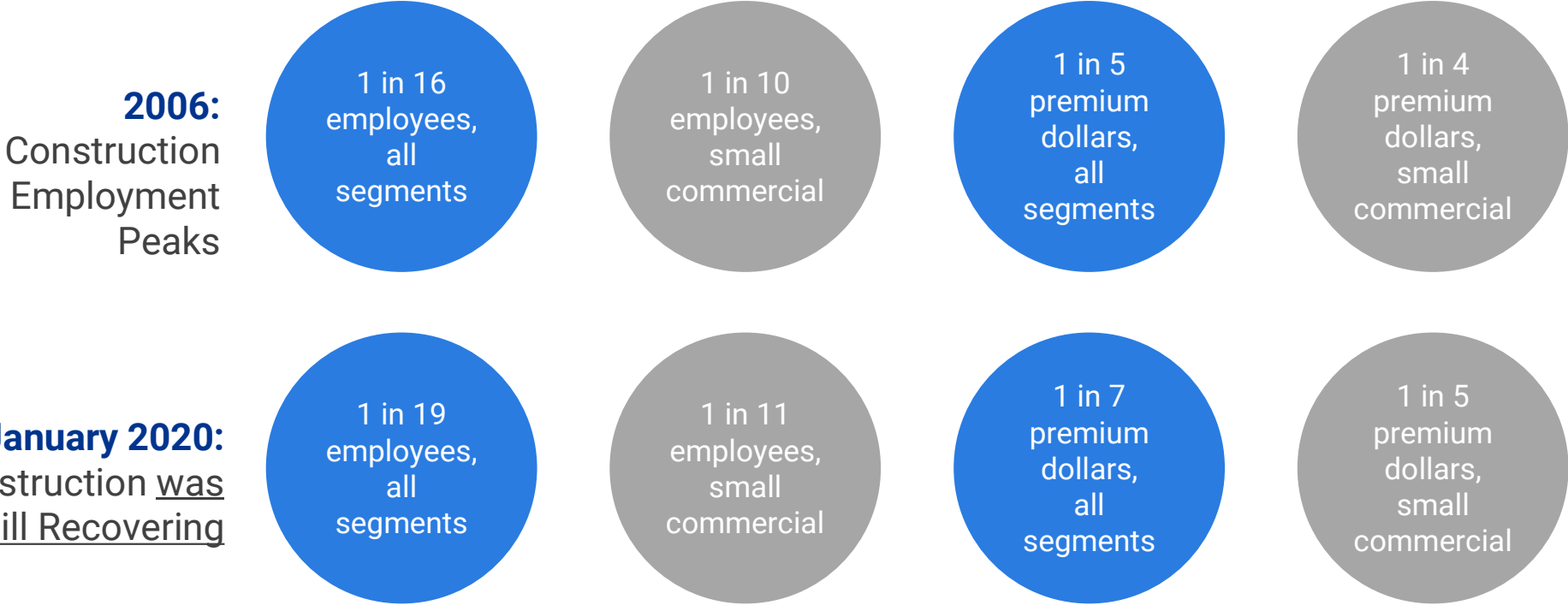
Nonfarm employees, construction employees (000s)



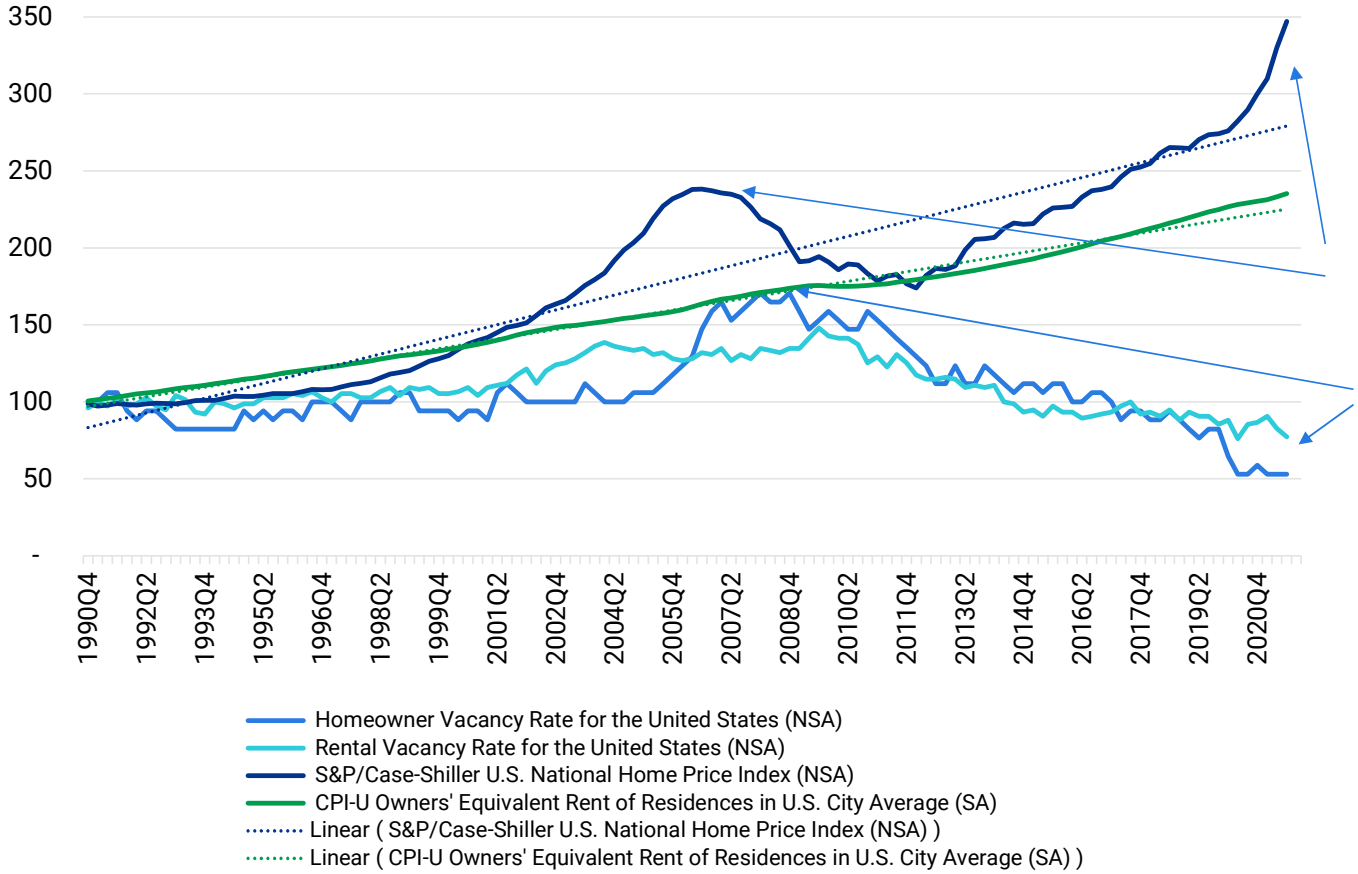
Nonfarm employment:
Surpasses previous peak May 2014

Construction employment:
Still below previous peak, pre-pandemic

...As a Result, the Pre-COVID CL Market Is Less Construction Dense



Residential Market Was Primed For Growth in 2022

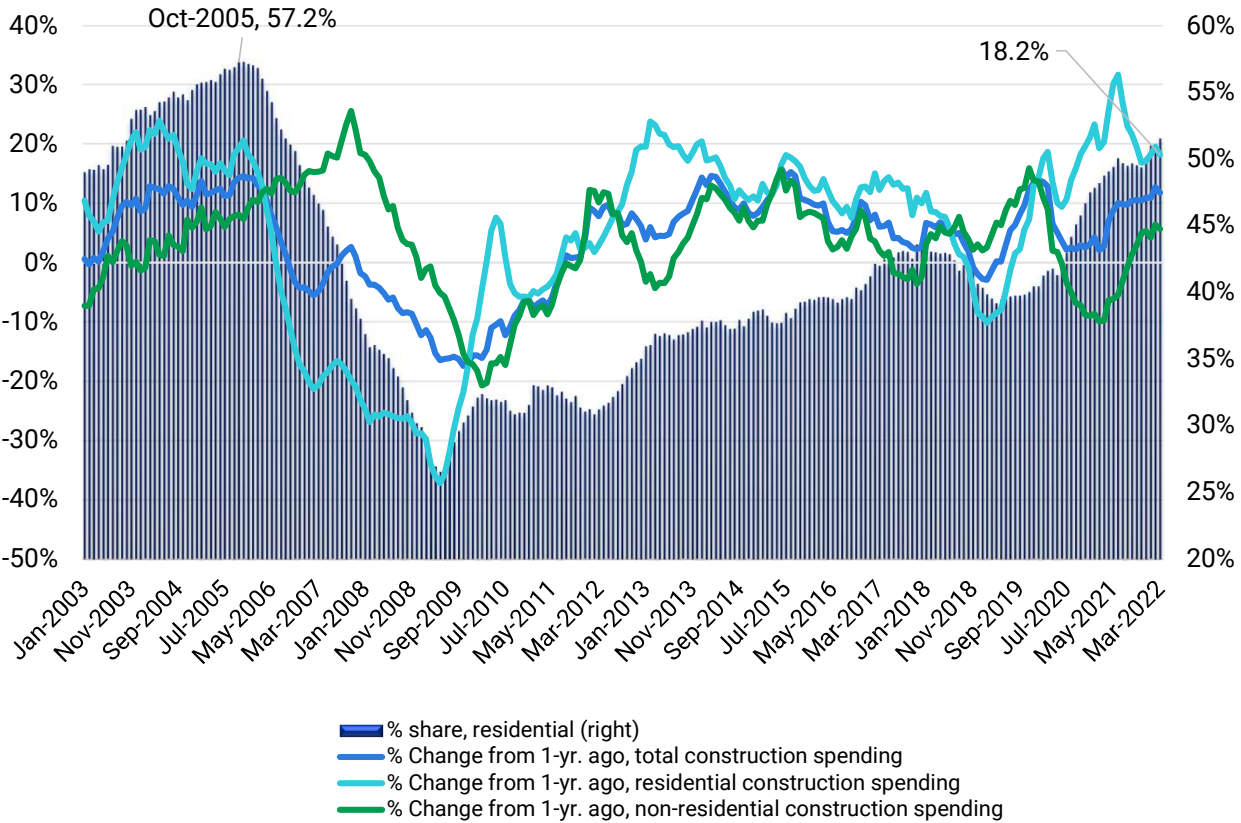


Key insights:

- US home prices on a tear since 2013
- Rising price/rent ratio suggests housing bubble
- Vacancy rates at multi-decade lows, unlike Great Recession
- **New construction – and new construction accounts – are likely the key to rebalancing the market**

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, S&P, U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics

No Surprise: Residential Construction Spending Has Been the Leader



Residential – big driver for 2021 and 2022

Residential construction spending typically averages 41 percent of total

Residential 51.5 percent of total construction by March 2022 – although below the peak of 57.2 percent in 2005

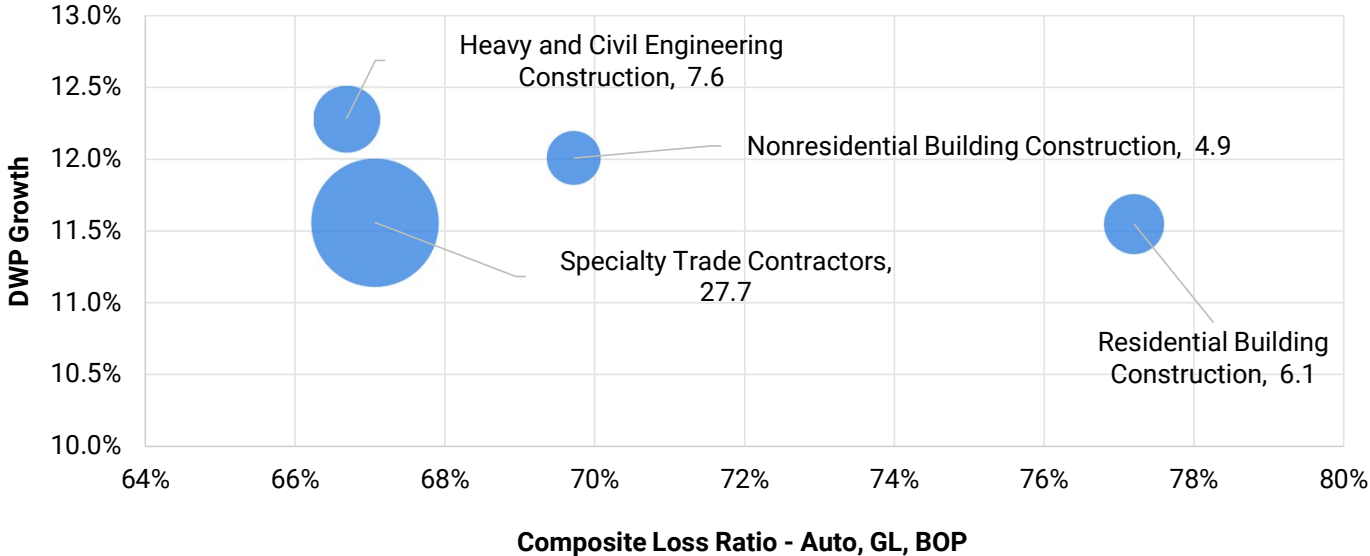
Y/Y residential construction growth averaging 19.2 percent since pandemic

Y/Y non-residential growing 6 percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Construction Accounts Showing Strong Growth Through the Pandemic

2022 Construction Growth and Profitability



Key insights:

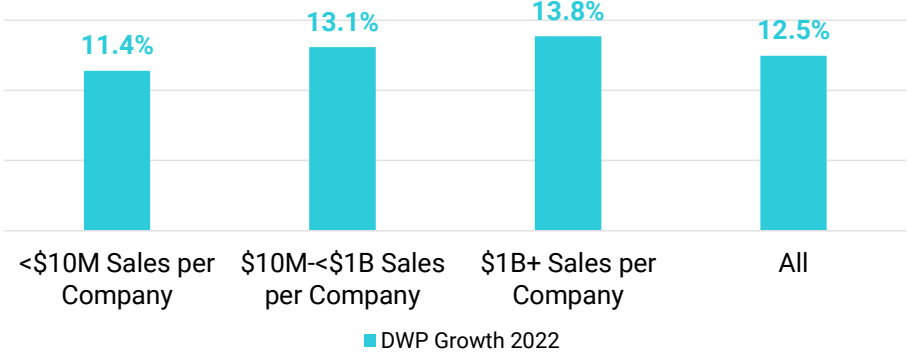
- Specialty trades, residential construction premiums growing 10%+ this year
- Residential construction historical loss experience about 6 points worse on a composite basis
- Residential new account growth may pose a profitability challenge

Source: Verisk / MarketStance

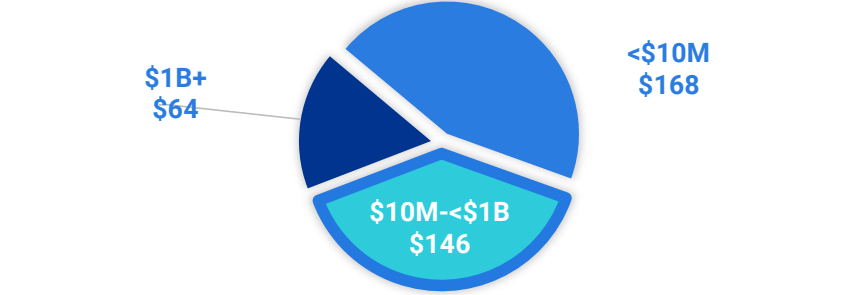
Your Appetite and Middle Market Expansion

Commercial Lines Forecast 2022

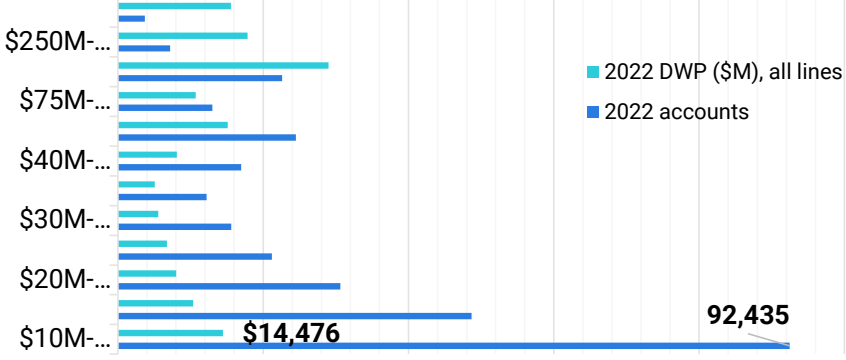
Forecast by Sales Size Group



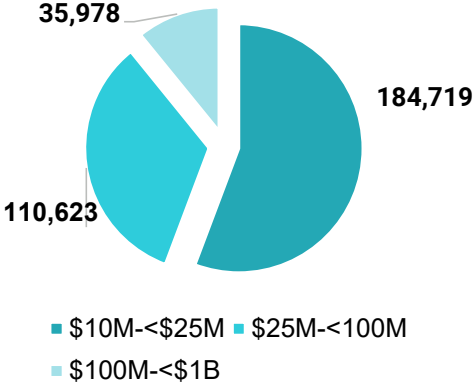
2022 DWP (\$B) BY SALES SIZE GROUP



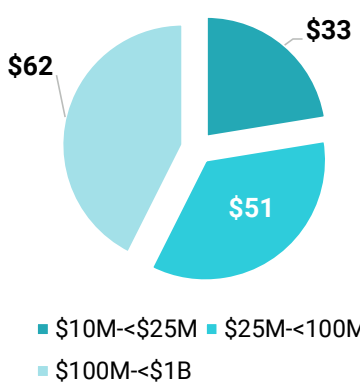
MM DWP, Accounts By Sales Size Range



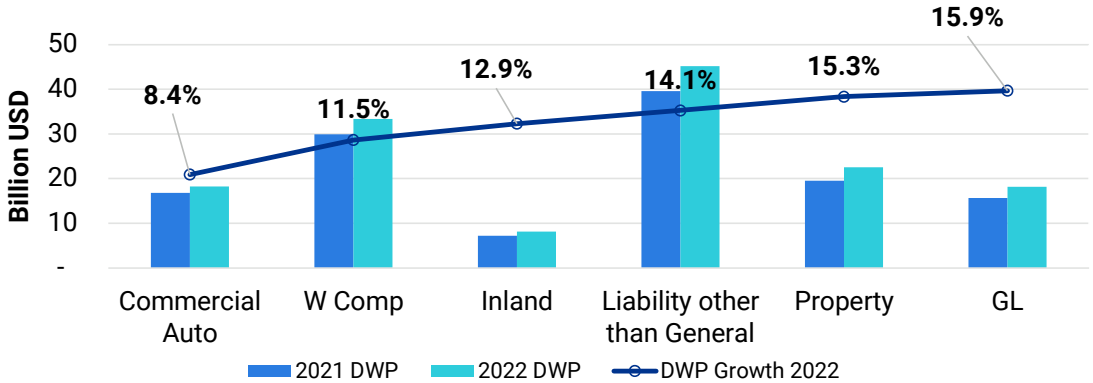
2022 Accounts



2022 DWP (\$B)



Middle Markets Forecast Growth: Major Lines



2022 growth in property, liability lines forecast to be particularly strong

Liability lines GL, other than General will likely continue to be a critical driver of premium volume in MM

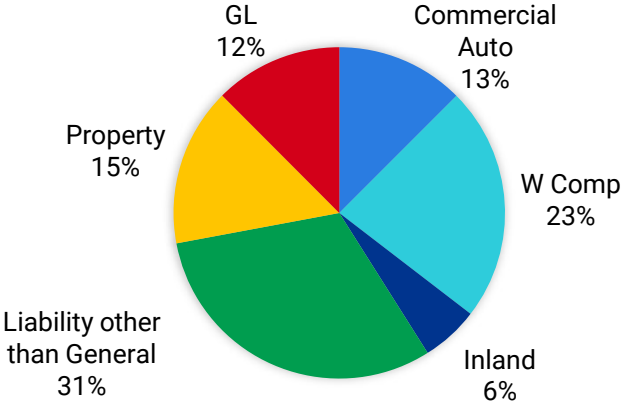
MM account composition by line very different from small commercial, particularly above 25M revenue

MM also shielded from some of the small commercial churn, volatility, particularly relevant now

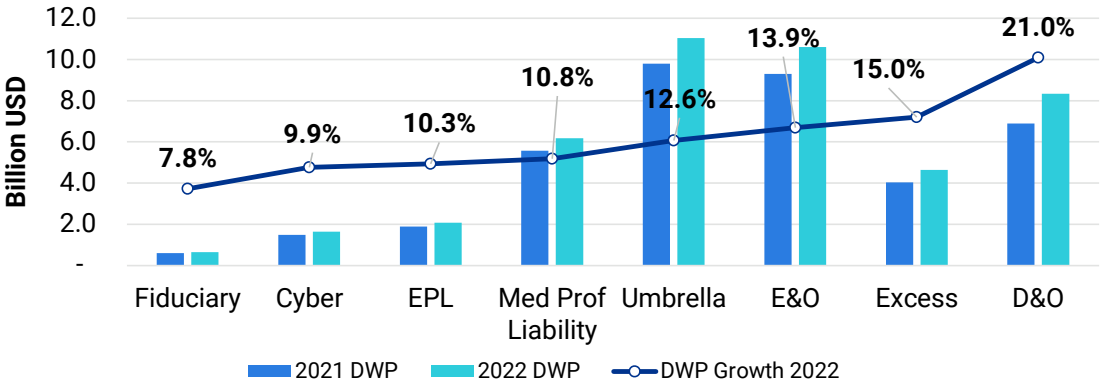
2022 MM outlook shaped by three things

Market rate trends show little sign of abating, especially in certain lines such as D&O, Umbrella

Breadth of economic recovery, fiscal stimulus



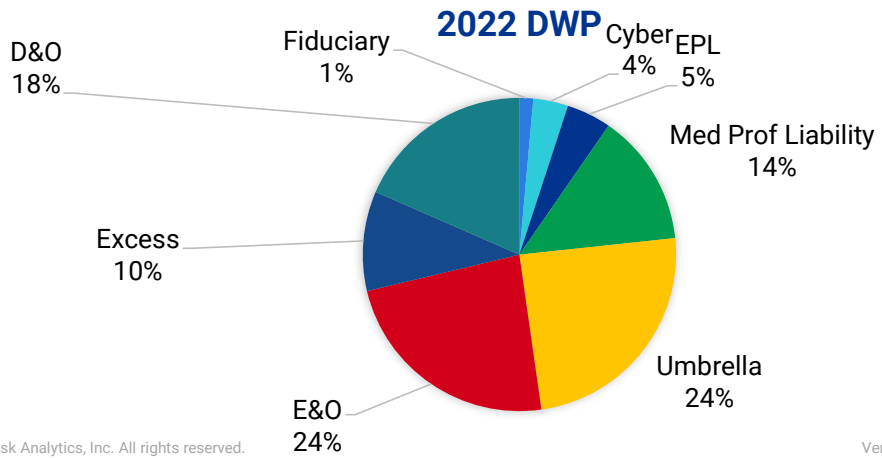
Middle Markets Forecast Growth: Liability Lines, Other Than General



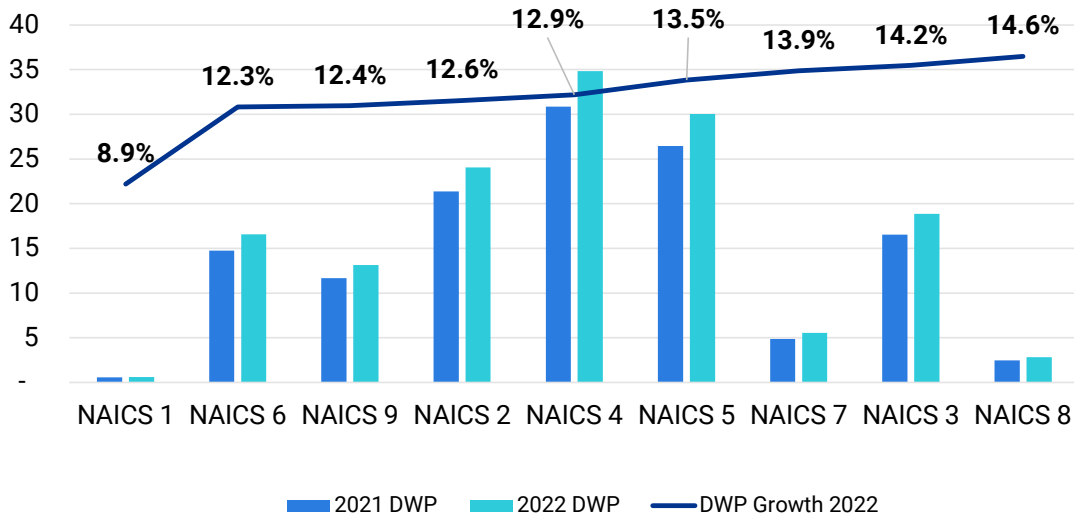
\$45B DWP in lines Other than GL

Key volume driver in MM

Private company D&O, Umbrella/Excess, E&O, Cyber critical growth drivers



Middle Markets Forecast by 1-Digit NAICS



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NAICS 8: Other Services
NAICS 9: State and Local Government

Hospitality, entertainment, personal services and travel related accounts (NAICS 7 & 8)

Big pandemic headlines, but minor CL market

Survivors staging a strong come-back

Both residential and civil construction spending powering MM construction (NAICS 2)

Infrastructure spending

Excess demand for housing

Top-half of MM DWP:

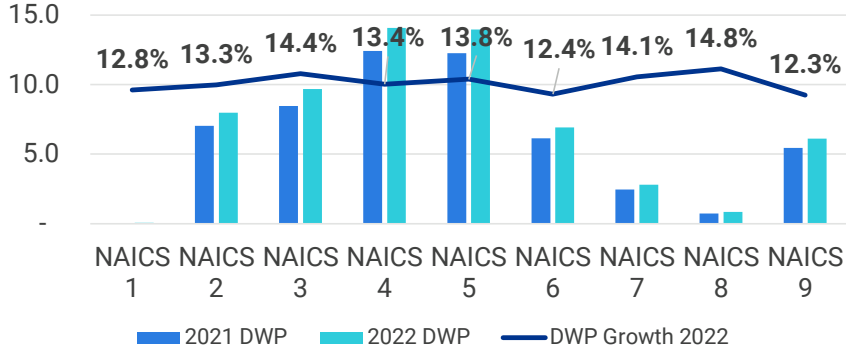
Concentrated in 75k accounts with >\$75M annual sales

Manufacturing DWP growth very strong

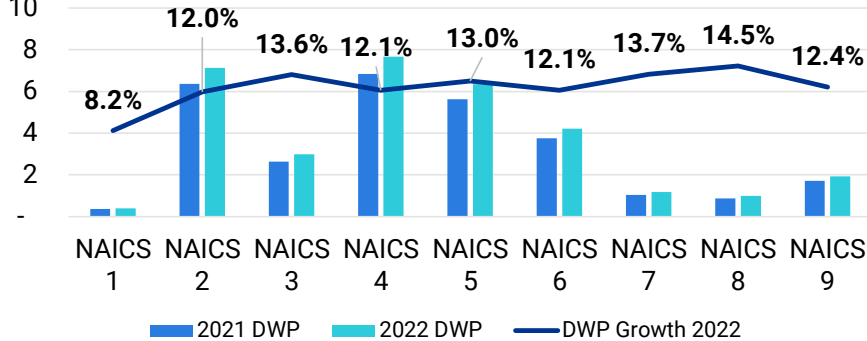
Widely dispersed from an industry standpoint

Middle Market Accounts: Industry Composition Varies With Size

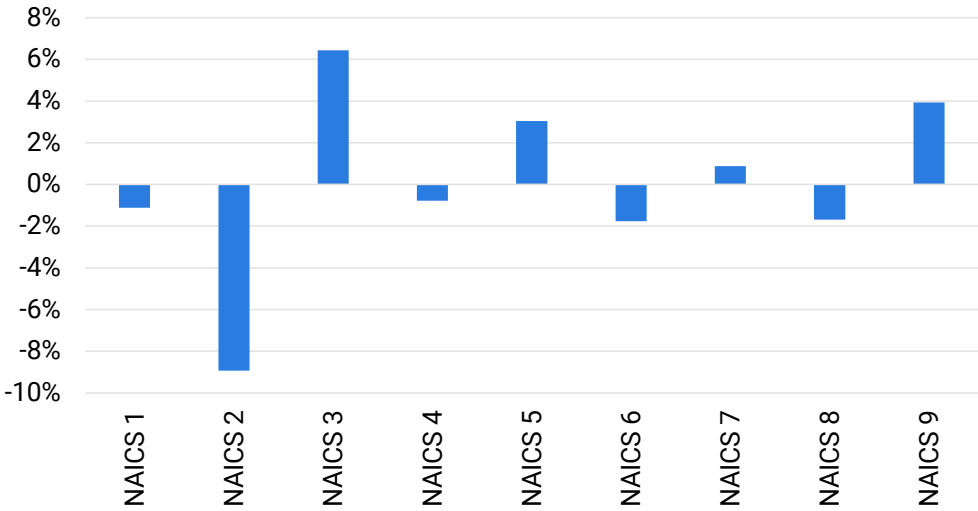
Accounts with \$100M-<\$1B Sales



Accounts with \$10M-\$25M sales



Difference in MM DWP Composition, Moving Up-Market



- NAICS 1:** Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- NAICS 2:** Construction, Utilities, and Mining
- NAICS 3:** Manufacturing
- NAICS 4:** Trade, Transportation, and Warehousing
- NAICS 5:** Information, Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, and Professional and Business Services
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Questions and Feedback

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Next Session

Taking Back Control: How
Verisk's WCMSA Services
Help you Reduce Costs and
Get Claims Settled!

Thursday, June 9
2:00pm ET

verisk.com/ws

Check Out

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