

Ratemaking

Stat 346 - Short-term Actuarial Math

Setting Rates

- Setting rates involves determining the premium to charge policyholders.
- A common approach is to set rates equal to:

$$\text{Rate} = \text{Expected losses} + \text{Expenses} + \text{Profit}$$

- However, this approach can vary depending on the specific circumstances and regulatory requirements.

Permissible Loss Ratio

- The permissible loss ratio (PLR) is a key metric used in ratemaking.
- It is defined as:

$$\text{PLR} = 1 - \frac{\text{Expenses}}{\text{Premium}} - \frac{\text{Profit}}{\text{Premium}}$$

- PLR represents the proportion of premiums that can be used to cover losses.
- A higher PLR indicates a higher level of risk tolerance.

Alternate Approaches

- Rates can also be determined using alternate approaches:
 - Setting rates equal to losses divided by the permissible loss ratio:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Losses}}{\text{PLR}}$$

- Setting rates equal to:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Losses} + F}{1 - V}$$

where F represents fixed costs per exposure (e.g., salaries, overhead) and V represents costs that scale with premium (e.g., profit, contingencies).

Policy Year Analysis

- In insurance, data is often measured by accident year and calendar year.
- However, rates for policies are typically updated mid-year.
- To analyze this, we assume policies are uniformly written over the course of the year.
- This allows us to calculate earned premium and unearned premium.

Earned Premium vs. Unearned Premium

- **Earned Premium:** Policyholder payments made in a given year.
- **Unearned Premium:** Payments from policies in that year but to be paid in later years.

Example Problem: One Year Policies

- Suppose a company has one year policies.
- For a given year, there are 24,000 in written premiums.
- **Question:** How much is actually earned premium by the end of the year?

Example Problem Solution: One Year Policies

- Assuming policies are uniformly written over the year, earned premium is half of written premium.
- So, earned premium for the year is 12,000.

Example Problem: Six Month Policies

- Now, let's consider six month policies.
- For the same year, with 24,000 in written premiums.
- **Question:** How much is actually earned premium by the end of the year?

Example Problem Solution: Six Month Policies

- Policies written in the first half of the year contribute their entire premium to earned premium.
- For policies written in the second half, only half of the premium is earned.
- So, earned premium for the year is $12,000 + (12,000/2) = 18,000$.

Premium Trends

- Premiums often increase over time.
- This increase is typically exponential growth.
- One way to estimate the growth trend from data is using log-linear regression.

Projected Loss Cost

- Projected loss cost can be calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Projected Loss Cost} = \text{Experienced Loss Cost} \times \exp(\delta t)$$

- Where δ represents rate of growth and t is the time period for projection.

Choosing Time Points for Projection

- When projecting loss costs, it's important to choose appropriate time points.
- For data from accident years, use the average of the years.
- When projecting for a specific policy, consider that you can buy a policy at any time during the year (assumed time period for a product to be available). Person A buys a policy at the beginning of the policy year, so most of Person A's losses will occur during that same year. Person B buys the policy towards the end of the year, so most of that person's losses will actually occur the following year.
- Use a parallelogram approach
- A few specific common cases
 - For 1 year policies, project at the end of the year.
 - For 6 month policies in force for a year, project at $3/4$ through the year.

Example

- Losses for 2014 were \$2,100 per exposure unit and in 2015 they were \$2,200 per exposure unit.
- It is determined that losses grow at an exponential rate with $\delta = 0.05$.
- We wish to project losses for a new 1-year policy that starts on November 1st 2016.

Question: What would the projected losses be for this policy when using 2014 data? What about using 2015 data?

- **Answer for 2014:** For 2014, the average date of accidents was midyear. We start the clock on July 1, 2014. For the new policy, the average loss will be on November 1st, 2017. Hence, $t = 3\frac{1}{3}$. The projected loss is \$2,480.86.
- **Answer for 2015:** For 2015, $t = 2\frac{1}{3}$ and projected losses will be \$2,472.24.

Example

Question: Instead of a one year policy, they want to make an 18 month policy and keep the same rate for 2 years instead of a standard one year. How would we project losses from 2015?

- **Answer:** Again the midpoint for 2015 data is July 1st, 2015. The midpoint for the policy period is 21 months into the policy (draw parallelogram). This would be August 1, 2018. Hence $t = 3\frac{1}{12}$ and the projection would be $2200e^{.05 \times 3.167} = 2577.43$ per year. Note that since this is two years for the policy, we would actually expect this loss to be doubled.

Example

- You work for a dental insurance company. You find that Losses for 2006 were \$150 per exposure unit.
- You are projecting losses use an exponential trend model.
- A new 8-month policy goes into effect February 1, 2008 for for the following year.
- You project losses for the policy to be \$182.

What δ did you use?

Trends versus rate changes

When talking about trends, you typically are talking about rising supply or medical costs, inflation, patterns in behaviors. These are things external to the insurance company. Internally, rates can be changed that will affect earned premiums. We treat these two things separately.