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An Economic Capital study of the Pension Protection Fund and UK’s Defined Benefit Pension Sector

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University of Kent

Actuarial Teachers and Researchers Conference (2014) – University of Edinburgh

December 2, 2014
Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Economic capital
3. Stochastic model
4. Model assumptions
5. Results
6. Conclusions
Agenda

1. Introduction
   - Background
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Background

Regulatory developments

- Basel 2/3.
- Solvency 2.
- Pensions Regulations.

Pensions: Developments in the UK

- Private pension membership: 46% (1997) to 32% (2012).
- DB scheme membership: 34% (1997) to 8% (2012).

Questions:

1. Impact of capital requirements on individual DB pension schemes.
2. Role of the PPF for the risk management of the entire sector.
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   - Formulation
   - Eligible schemes
   - PPF

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Economic Capital Formulation

**Economic capital** is the excess of assets over liabilities in respect of accrued benefits required to ensure that assets exceed liabilities on all future valuation dates over a specified time horizon with a prescribed high probability.

**Notations:**

- $X_t$: Net cash flow of the scheme;
- $L_t$: Value of s179 liability of the scheme;
- $I_{s,t}$: Accumulation factor;
- $D_{s,t}$: Discount factor.

**Building blocks**

- $P_t = L_{t-1} I_{(t-1,t)} - X_t - L_t$: Profit vector, with $P_0 = -X_0 - L_0$.
- $R_t = \sum_{s=0}^{t} P_s I_{s,t}$: Accumulated retained profits until time $t$,
- $V_t = \sum_{s=t+1}^{T} P_s D_{t,s}$: Present value of future profits at time $t$. 

P Tapadar (University of Kent)
Eligible Scheme Cashflow and Capital Requirement

Capital requirement: \( C_t = \max \left[ - \min_{s=t}^T V_s D_{t,s}, 0 \right] \).

Economic capital requirement: \( \rho(C_t) = \text{VaR}(C_t, p=0.995) \).
PPF Cashflow and Capital Requirement

Capital requirement: \[ C_t = \max \left[ - \min_{s=t}^{T} R_s D_{t,s}, 0 \right]. \]

Economic capital requirement: \[ \rho(C_t) = \text{VaR}(C_t, p = 0.995). \]
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   - Economic variables
   - Longevity
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The individual economic random variables, $Z_{it}$s, are modelled as:

$$Z_{it} = \mu_i + Y_{it}, \text{ where } Y_{it} = \beta_i Y_{i(t-1)} + \varepsilon_{it} \text{ and } \varepsilon_{it} \sim N(0, \sigma_i^2).$$

The error terms

- are assumed to be independently distributed across time $t$;
- which are directly connected to each other are dependent;
- which are indirectly connected are still dependent, but more weakly so.
The mortality model used is developed in three steps:

**Step 1:** Set S1PM and S1PF as the baseline mortality tables for males and females respectively.

**Step 2:** Project these base mortality tables from year 2006 to year 2012 using the mortality projection table published by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

**Step 3:** Finally, model the future stochastic mortality improvements starting from 2012 by modelling stochastic uncertainty around the central mortality projection (Sweeting (2008)).
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   - Membership profile
   - Model points
   - Investment
5. Results
6. Conclusions
## Membership Profile

Table: Average membership profile of eligible schemes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership group (Members)</th>
<th>Number of schemes</th>
<th>Active (%)</th>
<th>Deferred (%)</th>
<th>Pensioner (%)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong>: (5-99)</td>
<td>2,260</td>
<td>6 (13%)</td>
<td>23 (52%)</td>
<td>15 (35%)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong>: (100-999)</td>
<td>2,828</td>
<td>56 (16%)</td>
<td>182 (52%)</td>
<td>113 (32%)</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong>: (1,000-4,999)</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>384 (17%)</td>
<td>1,103 (49%)</td>
<td>754 (34%)</td>
<td>2,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong>: (5,000-9,999)</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>1,231 (17%)</td>
<td>3,297 (46%)</td>
<td>2,601 (37%)</td>
<td>7,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong>: (Over 10,000)</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>6,651 (19%)</td>
<td>14,763 (42%)</td>
<td>13,608 (39%)</td>
<td>35,022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Table: Eligible schemes model points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership types</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Accrued service/benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Active</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>7 years past service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>16 years past service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>25 years past service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>34 years past service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Accrued pension of £3,000 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Accrued pension of £1,500 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pensioner</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Pension of £6,000 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Pension of £3,000 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Assets, Liabilities and Investment Strategies

### Table: Comparison of assets and liabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimated</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>£1,018b</td>
<td>£1,027b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>£1,218b</td>
<td>£1,231b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table: Distribution of eligible scheme by investment strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment strategy</th>
<th>Asset allocation</th>
<th>Proportion of eligible schemes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equities</td>
<td>Bonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$L$</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$M$</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H$</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PPF broadly follows investment strategy $L$. 
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Aggregate Economic Capital for Eligible Schemes

As at 31 March 2012

Economic Capital
£ 1,231 billion

Assets
£ 1,018 billion

Liabilities
£ 1,218 billion
Economic Capital: Eligible Scheme in A

Membership group A

Liability and economic capital (£ million)

Year

2020 2040 2060 2080 2100

0 2 4 6 8 10

$\rho_t^{AH}$

$\rho_t^{AM}$

$\rho_t^{AL}$

$L_t$
Eligible Schemes: Liability Comparison

\[ \frac{L_t^X}{L_0^X} \text{ as multiples of } \frac{L_t^A}{L_0^A} \text{ where } X=A,B,C,D,E \]
Eligible Schemes: Economic Capital Comparison

\[ \rho_t^{XY}/L_0^X \text{ as multiples of } \rho_t^{AY}/L_0^A \text{ where } X=A,B,C,D,E \text{ and } Y=L,M,H \]
PPF: Some Additional Assumptions

- PPF levy: 0.072% of the total s179 liabilities.
- Amortisation period: 10 years.
- Funding cap: 120% of s179 liabilities.
- Insolvency rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership group</th>
<th>Annual insolvency rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0.72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PPF: Base Case Results

PPF schemes liability and economic capital: Base case

- LIABILITY
- ECONOMIC CAPITAL

£ billion

Year

2020 2040 2060 2080 2100
PPF: Sensitivity Results

As at 31 March 2012

1: Base Case
2: 4-year Amortisation
3: 50% Buffer
4: (2) + (3)
PPF Takes Over All Schemes With Insolvent Sponsors

PPF takes over all schemes with insolvent sponsors

- **Base**
- **All schemes**
- **+ 50% buffer and**
- **4–year amortisation**

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**Economic capital (£ billion)**

- **Year**: 2020, 2040, 2060, 2080, 2100
- **Values**: 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300
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Conclusions

Summary

- Aggregate economic capital requirement:
  - On eligible scheme basis: £1,200 billion.
  - For PPF: £35 billion.

- Reasonable capital buffer + shorter amortisation period can bring down the economic capital requirement further.

Need a holistic view, taking PPF into account, while devising regulations for defined benefit pension sector.

References