

10 Years after Lehman: how has risk management changed? ETH Zürich – Risk Day

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There's no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share. No chance.

– Steve Ballmer, Microsoft CEO
USA Today, April 2007

Hindsight is a wonderful thing

– David Beckham

Hindsight bias makes surprises vanish

- Daniel Kahneman
(2002 Nobel laureate in economics)

My big take-away from the crisis: it's really, really, really hard to predict (ex ante) what will, let alone what might happen

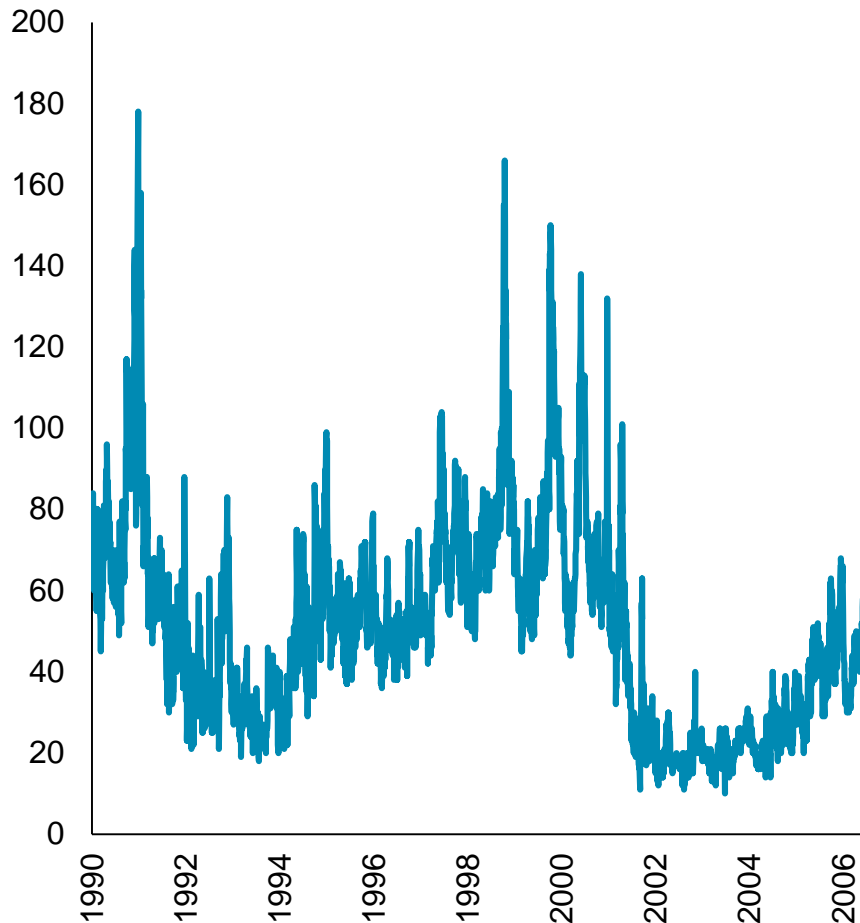
- The risk manager's perennial problem
- A consequence of the efficient market hypothesis, and a recognition that the market is the best information aggregator we have
 - Can't systematically predict returns (on average, $\alpha = 0$)
 - ... but some people are better informed (and smarter?) than others
- Oddly, volatilities are (somewhat) predictable
 - E.g., GARCH models
 - But that is not helpful for predicting market disruptions
- These ideas have at least 4 Nobel prizes behind them
- It is hard to predict tail outcomes
 - It is really hard to predict far tails
 - It is nearly impossible to predict disruptions
 - And when one does happen, it is really hard to know if it's short or long duration

Let's travel back to the summer of 2006...

In the past, risk managers would frequently look towards historical precedents as an indicator for the worst case scenario stress event...

TED spread

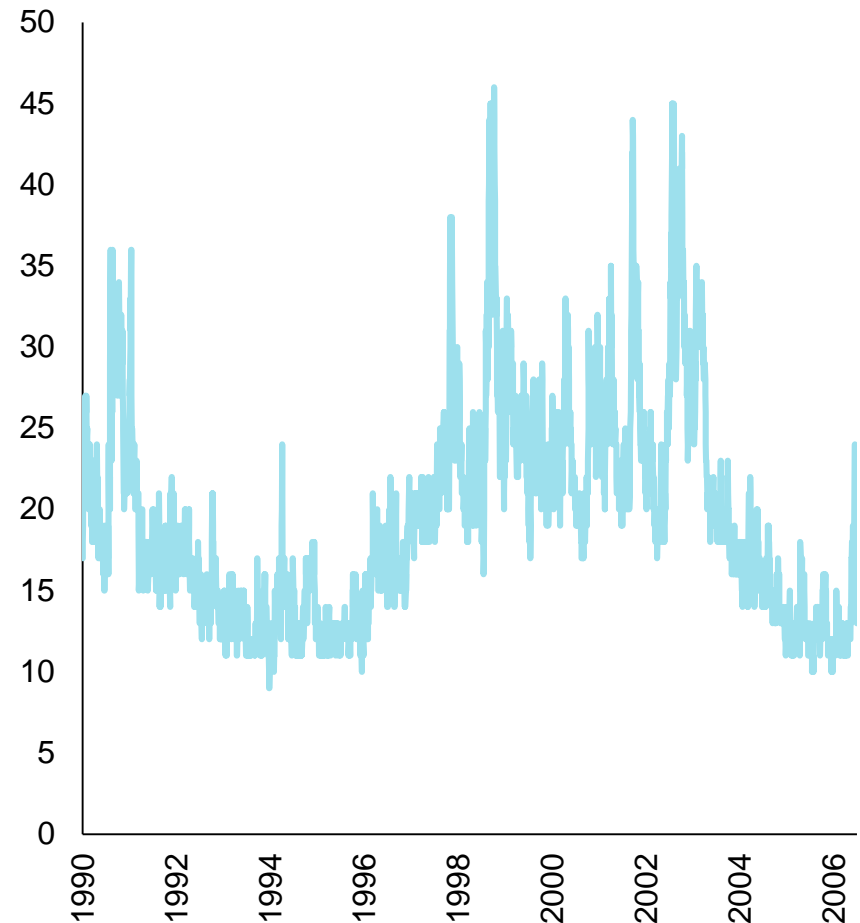
Bps, Jan 1990-June 2006



Source: FRED

VIX

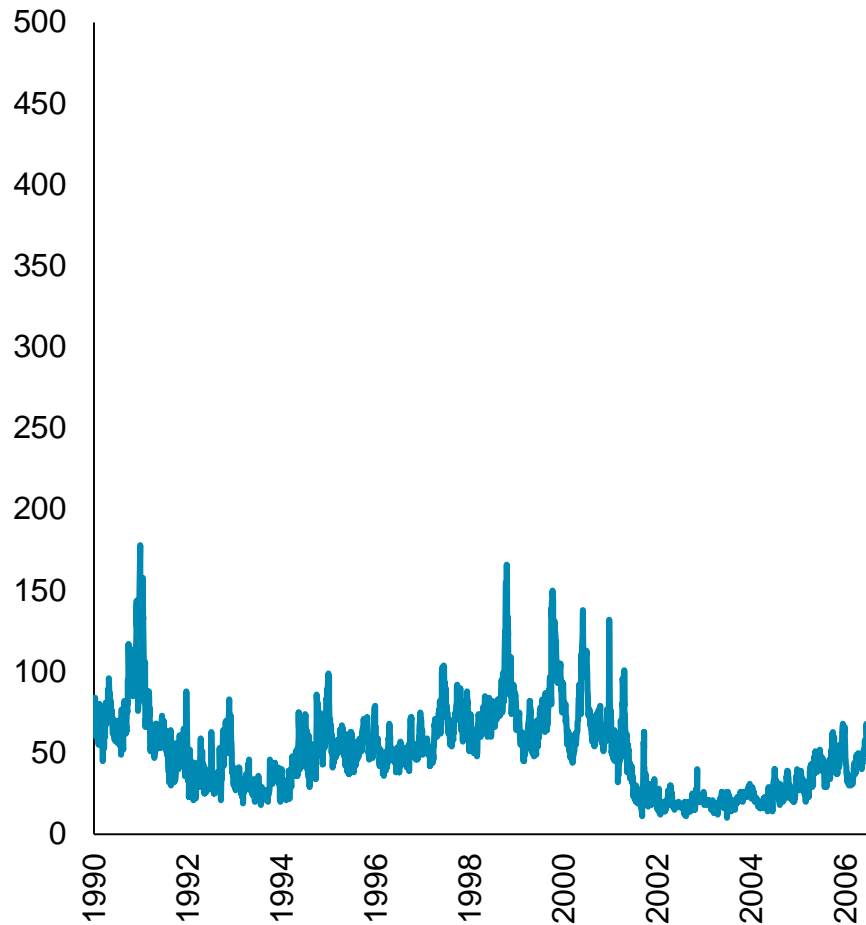
Points, Jan 1990-June 2006



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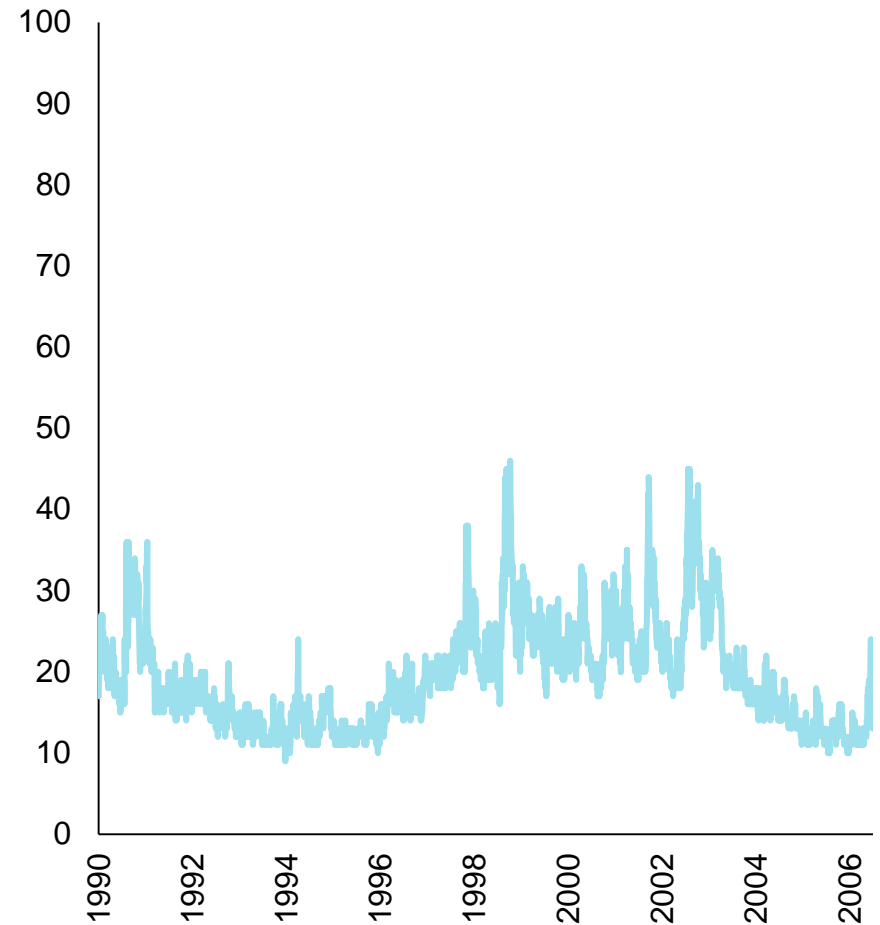
Bps, Jan 1990-June 2006



Source: FRED

VIX

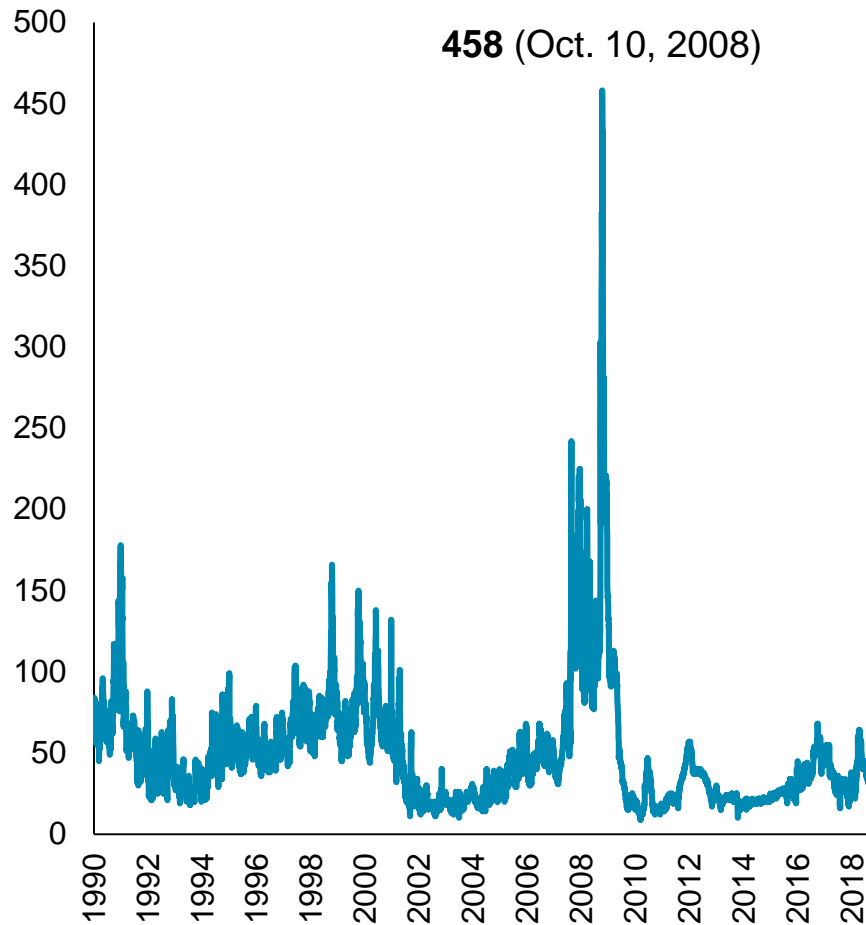
Points, Jan 1990-June 2006



...while during the crisis many of these metrics reached unprecedented levels

TED spread

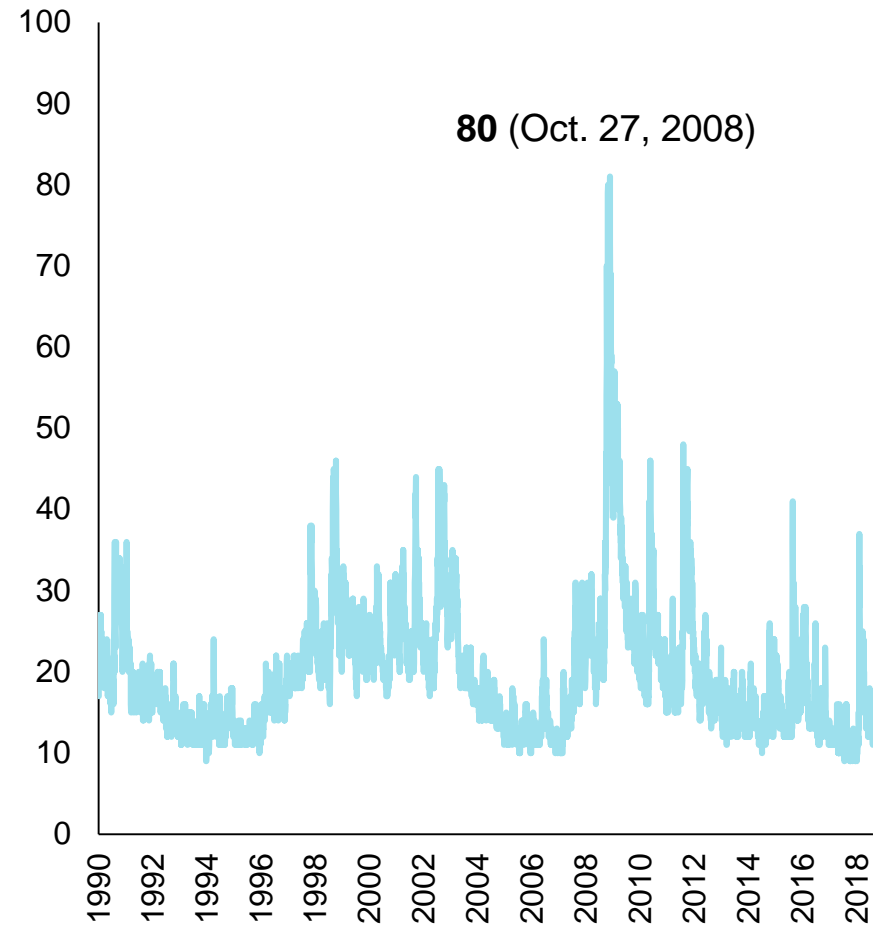
Bps, Jan 1990-Aug 2018



Source: FRED

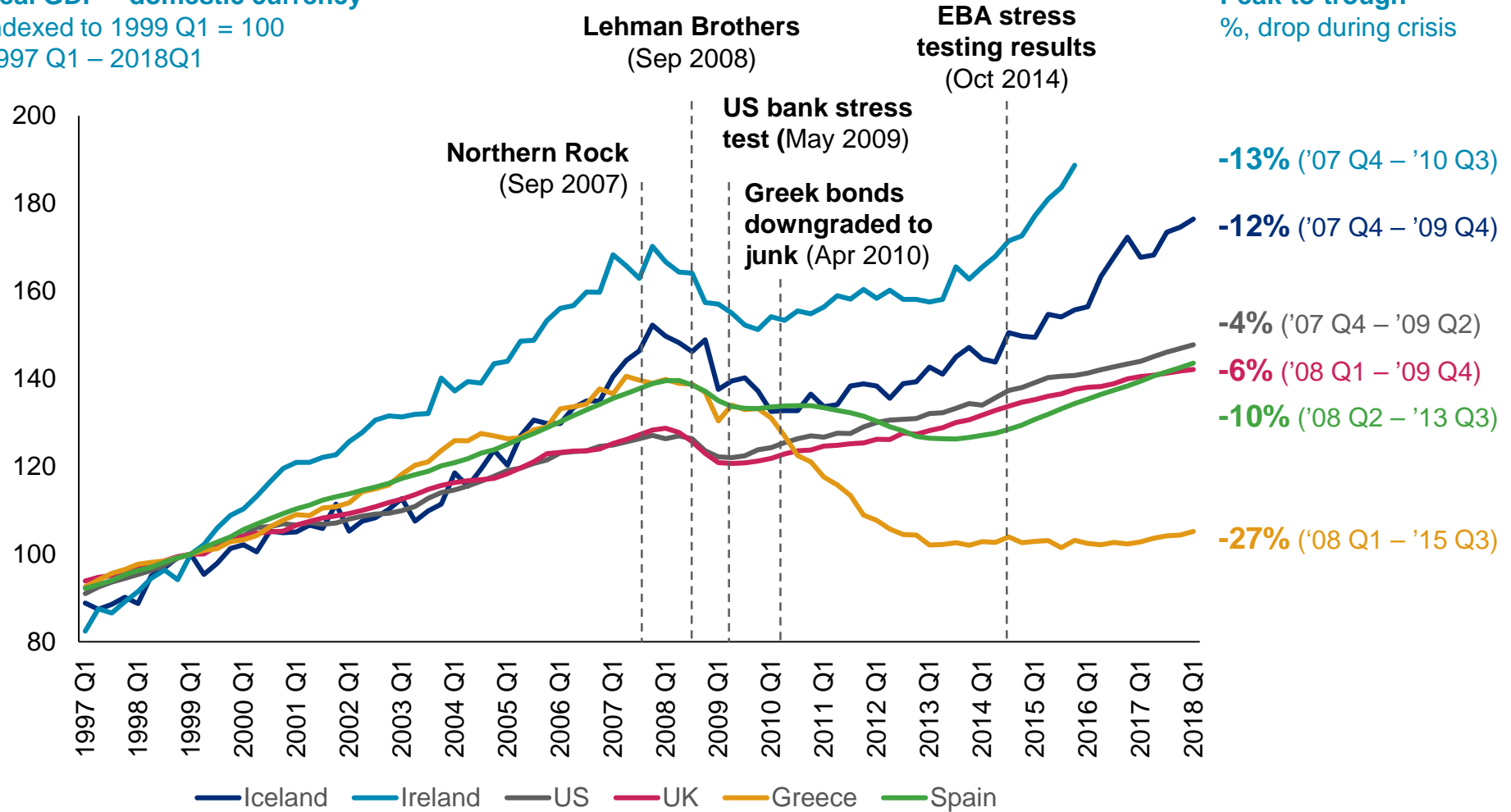
VIX

Points, Jan 1990-Aug 2018



The real economic impact of the financial crisis has been enormous

Real GDP – domestic currency¹
 Indexed to 1999 Q1 = 100
 1997 Q1 – 2018Q1



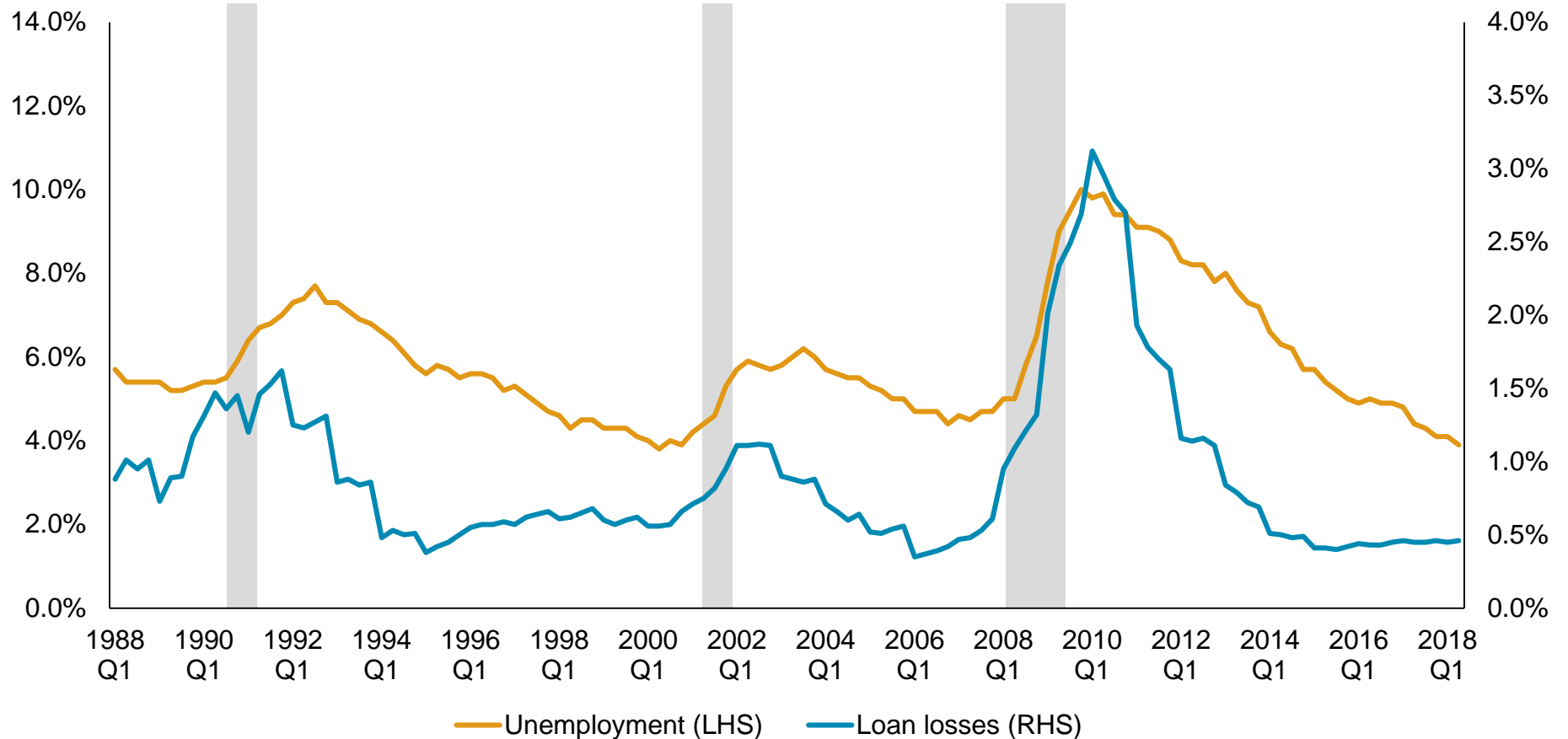
Source: Seasonally adjusted GDP data from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED)

1. For US, indexed GDP values inferred from annual rates

2. SCAP (Supervisory Capital Assessment Program) introduced by Federal Reserve

Bank performance is correlated with the economy, opening the door to practical stress testing

US unemployment rate and total US bank loan losses¹



1. Total Net Loan Charge-offs to Total Loans for Banks – not seasonally adjusted (quarterly time series as sourced from FRED)

Stress testing at banks before and after the crisis

- Before the crisis, business line and product-level stress testing regimes were reasonably well-developed
 - But corporate-wide credit risk stress testing still at a developmental stage
- No firm had a fully-developed program of integrated stress testing that captured all major financial risks on a firm-wide basis

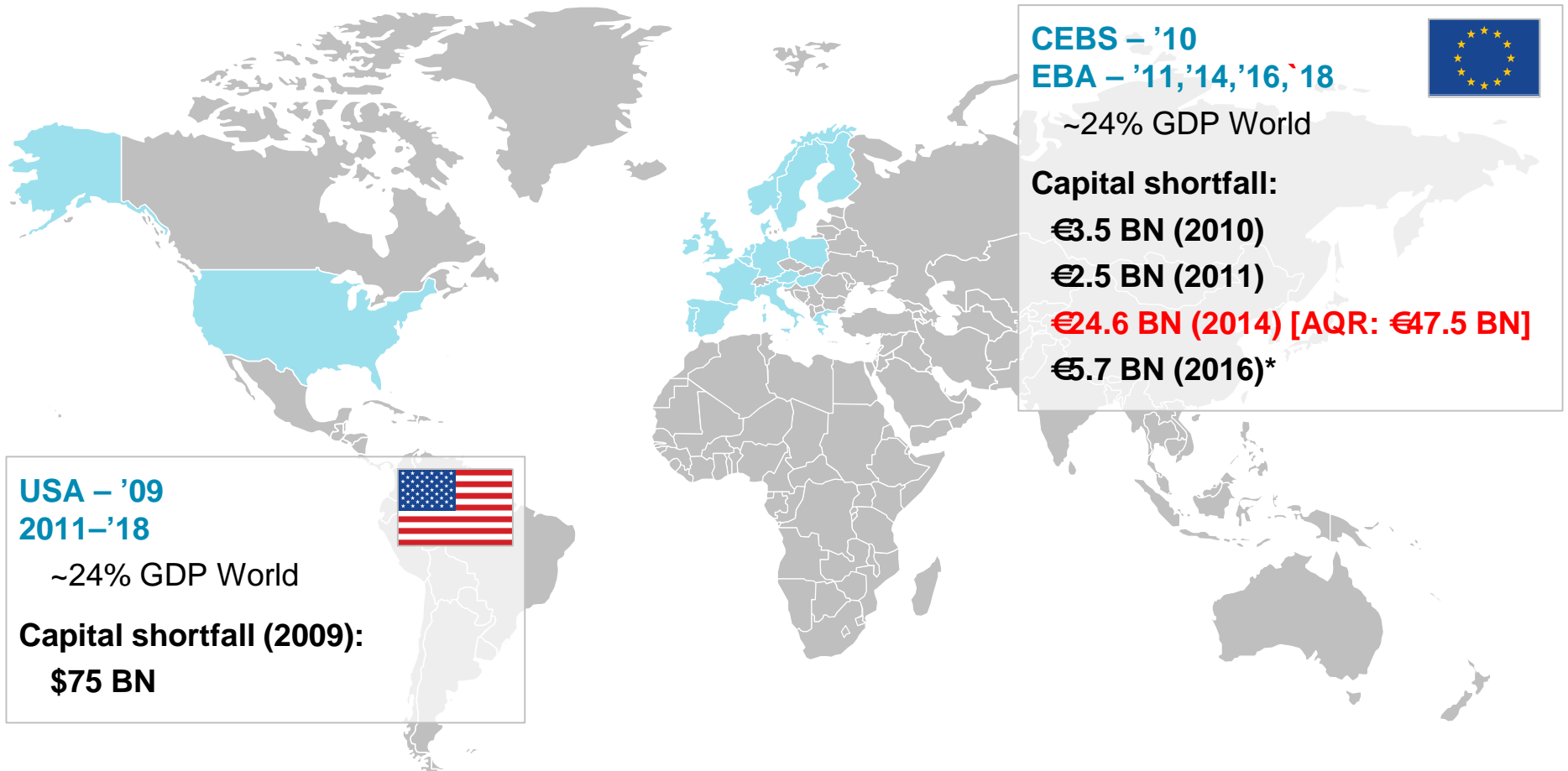
Pre-crisis

- Mostly single shock
- Product or business unit level
- Static
- Losses only
- Not usually tied to capital adequacy

2009 →

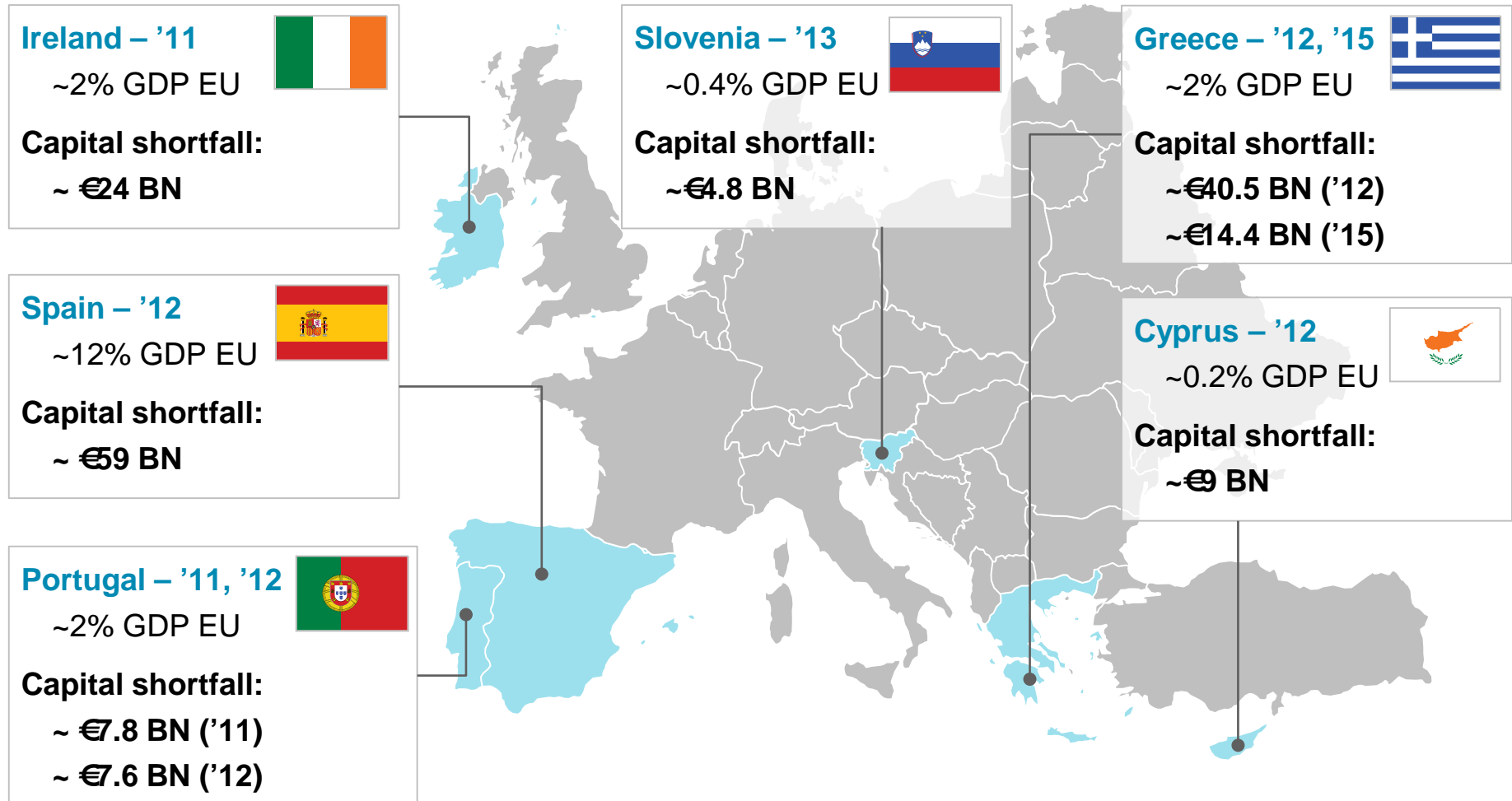
- Broad macro scenario and market stress
- Comprehensive, firm-wide
- Dynamic and path dependent
- Losses, revenues and costs
- Explicit post-stress common equity threshold

Early stress tests in U.S. and Europe



* No pass/fail threshold. Monte Paschi projected min CET1 was -2.4%

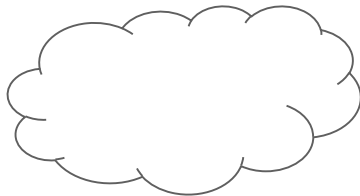
Quantification of capital shortfalls in Europe following Asset Quality Review (AQR) and stress test exercises



Stress testing involves mapping a view of the world (state space) to micro-outcomes (higher losses, lower revenues)

Macro

- GDP
- Unemployment
- Home price index



Micro

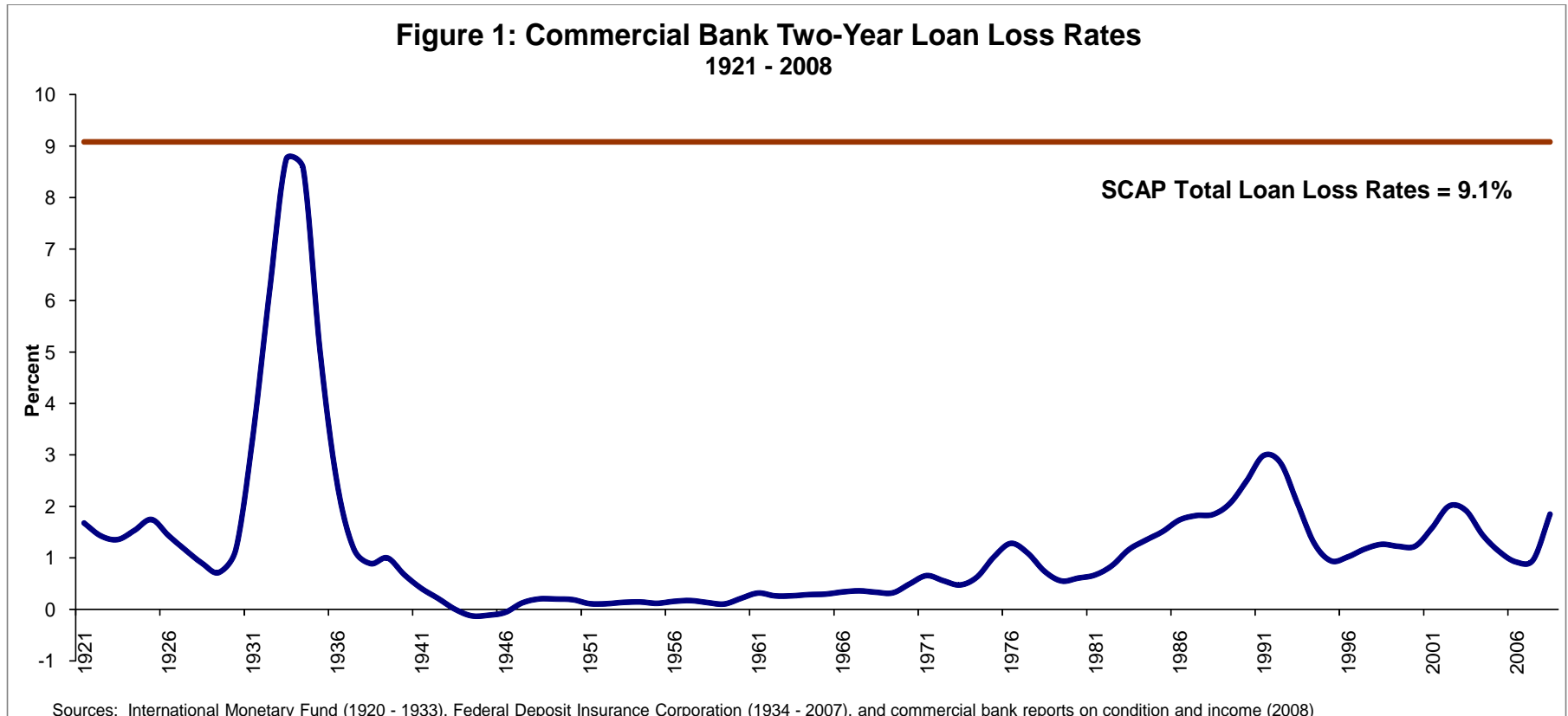
- Business lending losses
- CRE losses
- Mortgage revenue
- Trading P&L
- ...

- A myriad assumptions need to be made to go from the macro-scenario to the micro-outcomes, e.g.
 - Regional real estate variables
 - Manheim index (used car prices)
 - US: auto sales dropped by 37% in 2008-'09 recession, Manheim index rose 4%
 - Mortgage modifications and other policy actions
- Standard linear and logistic regressions remain the workhorses for modeling
 - Consider revenue for product j driven by macro-factors (\mathbf{x}) and firm/business specific factors (\mathbf{z})

$$r_{j,t+1} = \alpha_{j,[t?]} + \beta_{j,[t?]} \mathbf{x}_{t-k} + \gamma_{j,[t?]} \mathbf{z}_{j,t-k} + \varepsilon_{j,t+1}$$

- Further heterogeneity (e.g. geography, product type, client segment,...)
- There may be structural changes (e.g. during or just after a financial crisis), there may be non-linearities (.....)

US stress test in 2009 was credibly severe: banks had to capitalize against possible losses higher than during the Great Depression



Source: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/bankinfo/bcreg20090507a1.pdf>.

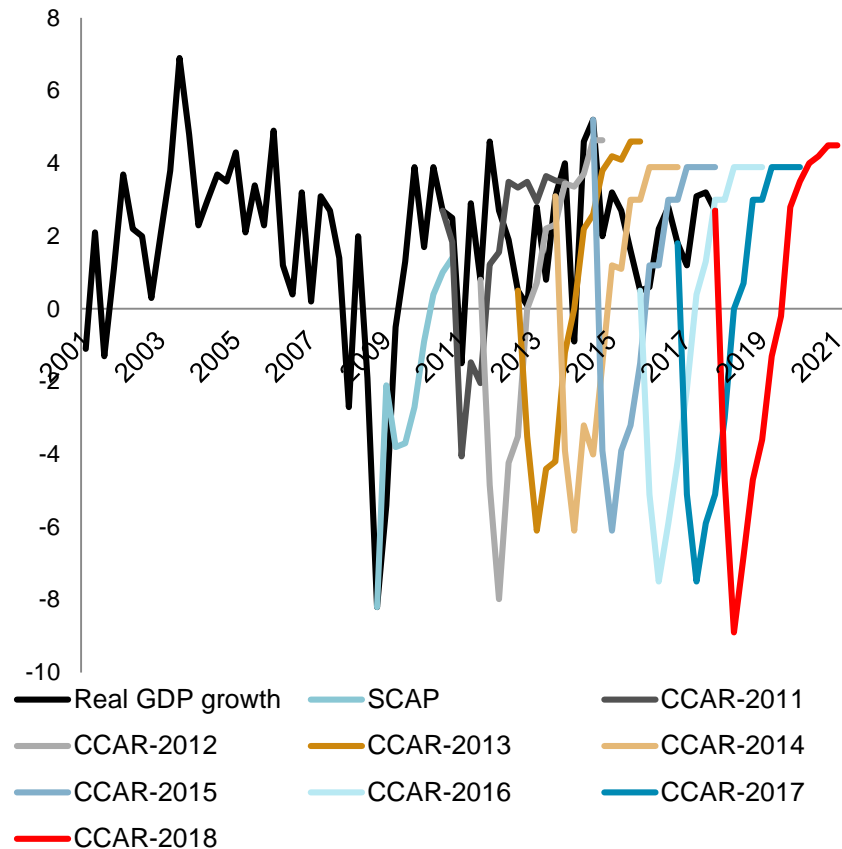
How does one design a good stress scenario? And how is it different for a bank vs. a regulator?

- It should be “stressful”
 - What is your risk appetite? How severe should the storm be that the bank or banking system should survive?
 - A bad recession, a stock market crash?
 - 2008 Financial Crisis?
 - Great Depression?
 - How much capital should they have post stress?
- It should be coherent
 - A statement about correlation or dependence structure
 - Probe and expose dependence on “natural hedges” and equilibrium relationships ...
 - E.g. covered interest parity and cross-currency basis
 - E.g. convergence trades, e.g. on- and off-the-run Treasuries (LTCM in 1998)
 - ... without becoming, well, incoherent
- It should be reasonably comprehensive in probing vulnerabilities
 - Bank: products, markets, clients, segments, countries, ...
 - Regulator: which banks or type of banks should I target?
- Best to have many scenarios to cover range of possibilities

Example: U.S. real GDP growth and unemployment rate SCAP (2009), CCAR (2011-2018)

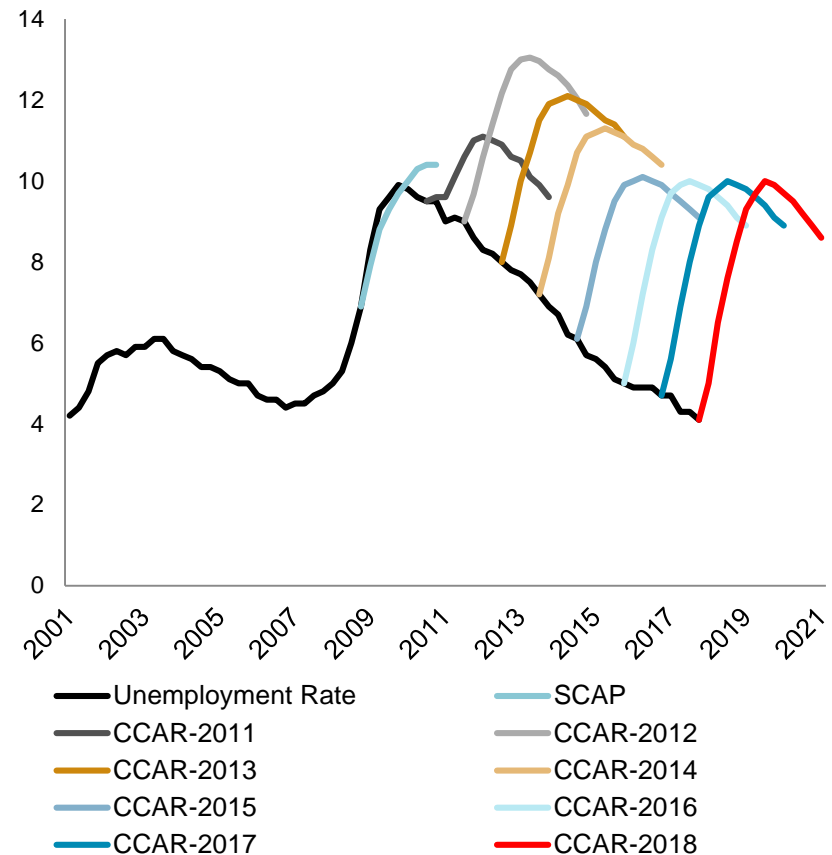
Real GDP Growth (%)

Severely Adverse scenarios vs. historical observations



Unemployment Rate (%)

Severely Adverse scenarios vs. historical observations



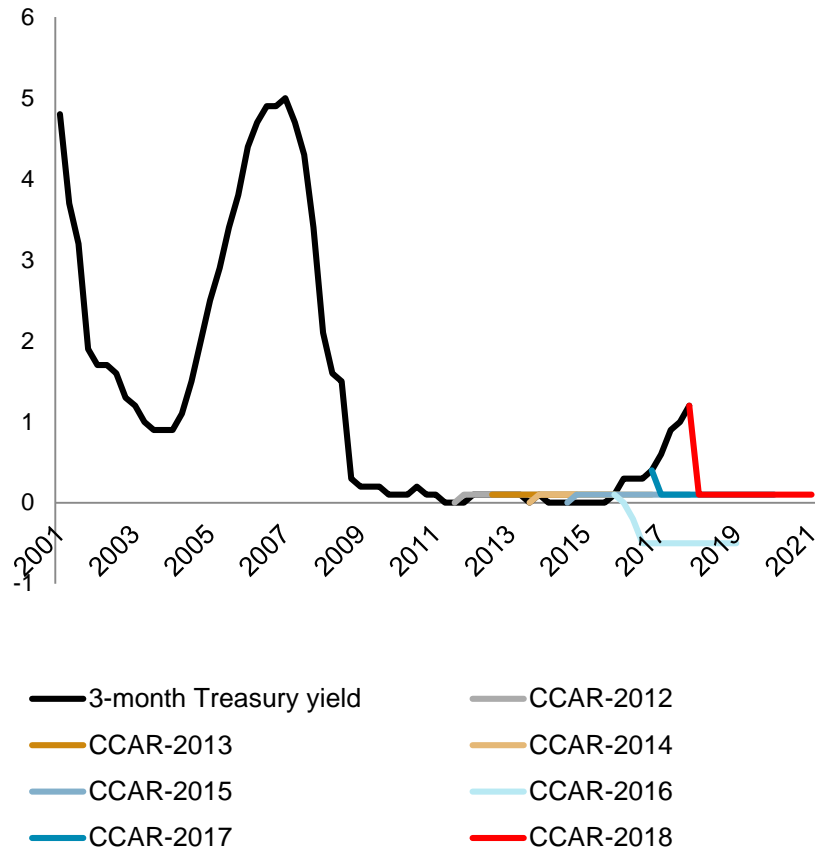
Source: Fed SCAP and CCAR-2011-2018 scenario disclosures

Note: For SCAP-2009, CCAR-2011 and CCAR-2012, only baseline and adverse scenarios were released. Therefore, adverse scenario data for these years is shown on the right-hand side graph for comparison to severely adverse scenario data for CCAR-2013-2018

Example: 3M U.S. Treasury and BBB Corporate Yield Spread CCAR (2012-2018)

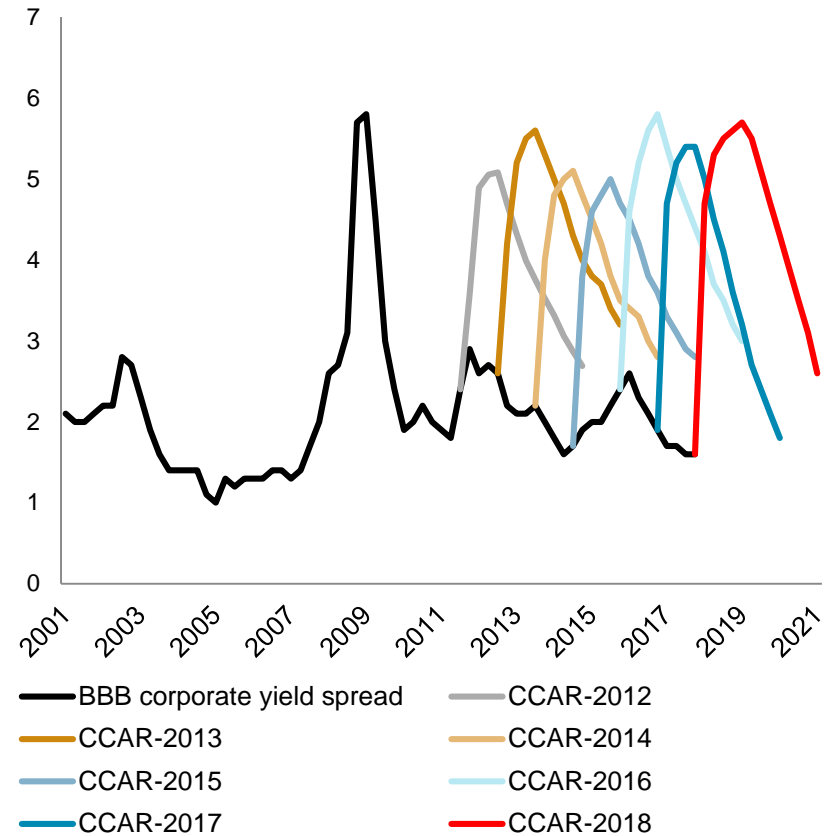
3-Month Treasury Rate (%)

Severely Adverse scenarios vs. historical observations



BBB Corporate Yield Spread (% to 10Y treasury)

Severely Adverse scenarios vs. historical observations

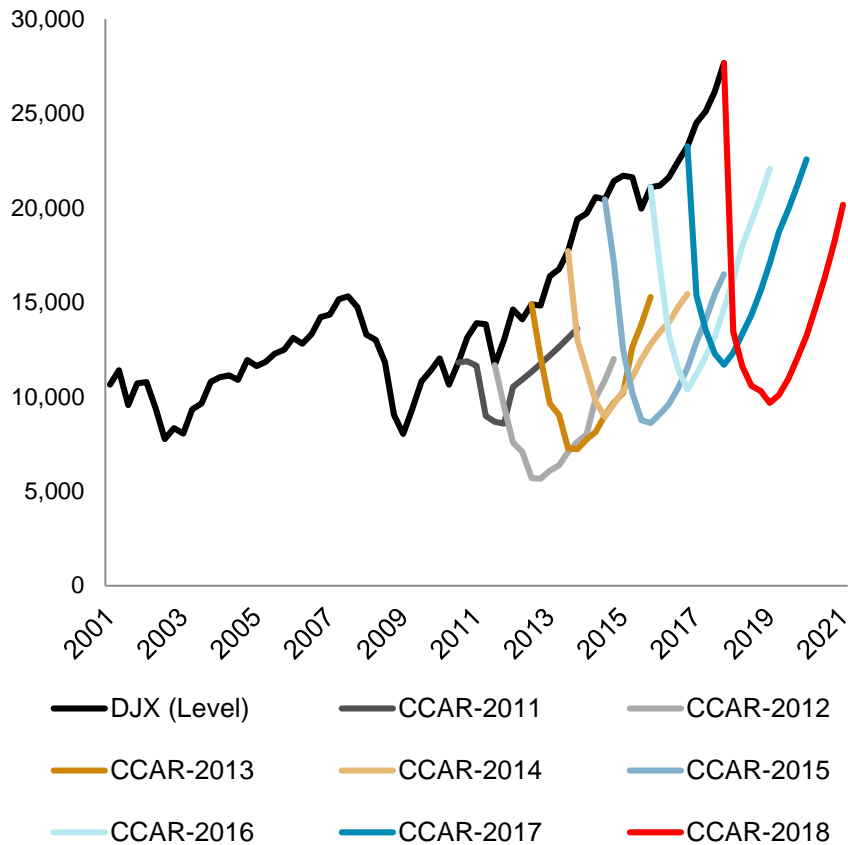


Source: Fed SCAP and CCAR-2011-2018 scenario disclosures

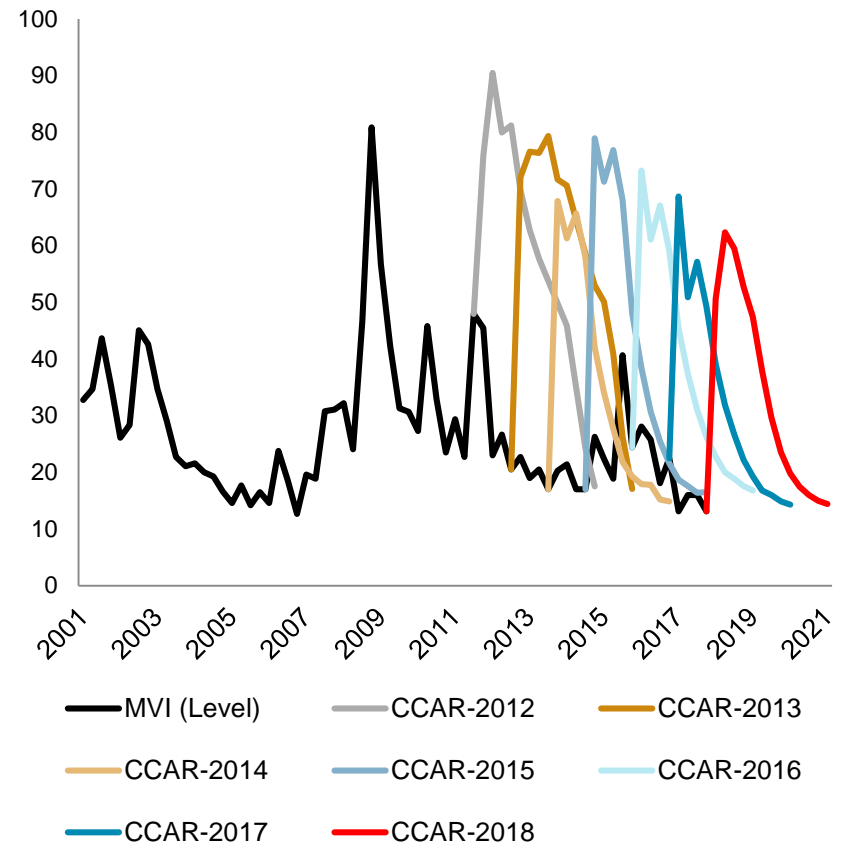
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Example: Dow Jones Total Stock Market Index and VIX CCAR (2012-2018)

Dow Jones Total Stock Market Index (Level)
Severely Adverse scenarios vs. historical observations



Market Volatility Index (Level)
Severely Adverse scenarios vs. historical observations



Source: Fed SCAP and CCAR-2011-2018 scenario disclosures

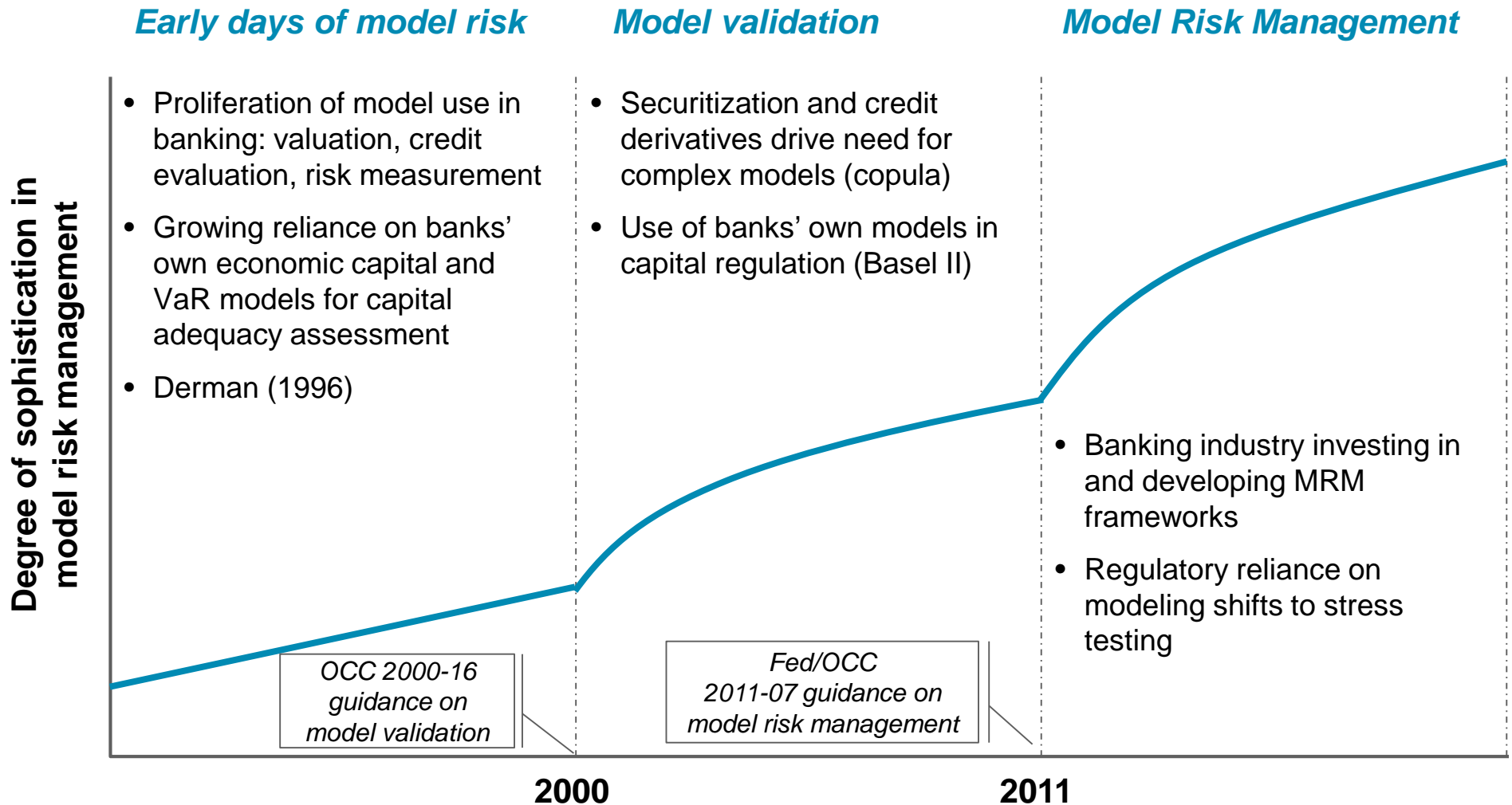
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There has been a veritable model explosion since the crisis

- Models of state space and risk factors
 - Formal macro-econometric models: 10-1000+ risk factors
 - Note that macro-econometric models based on equilibrium relationships; hard to generate very far from equilibrium outcomes
 - Adaptation by banks to specific exposure categories
 - Regional concentrations require regional tailoring of house price index, unemployment, etc.
 - Market risk factors for trading operations
 - Large trading firms maintain 50,000 – 400,000+ risk factors daily
 - (NB: not a post-crisis phenomenon)
 - Fed's Global Market Shock is specified to 30,000 risk factors
- Models to translate scenarios (risk factors) to outcomes
 - Banks have 50-1000+ stress testing models depending on size, complexity, business and geographic coverage
 - Temptation to fit models to last crisis – at likely cost of low robustness to future unknown shocks

We're all econometricians now!

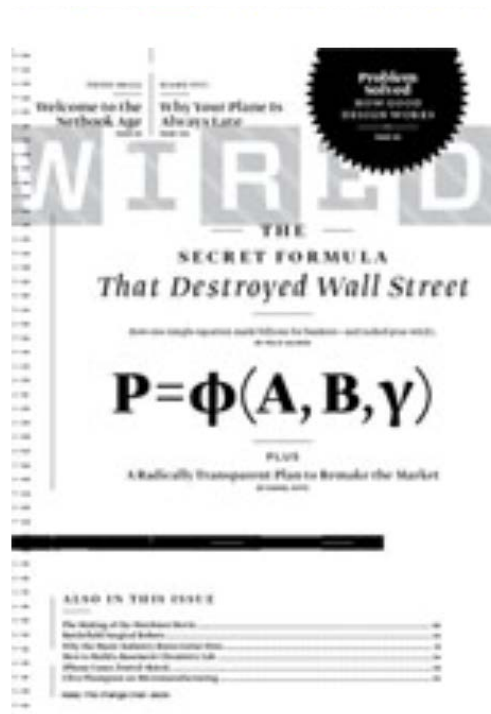
Fortunately the explosion of models has been met with the rise of formal model risk management



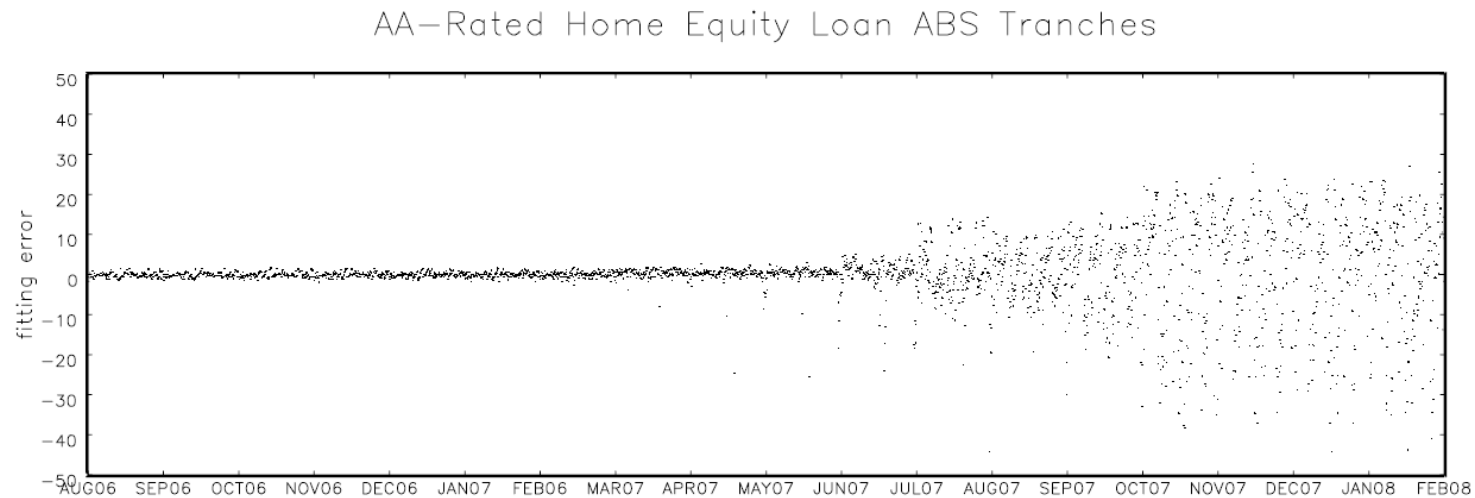
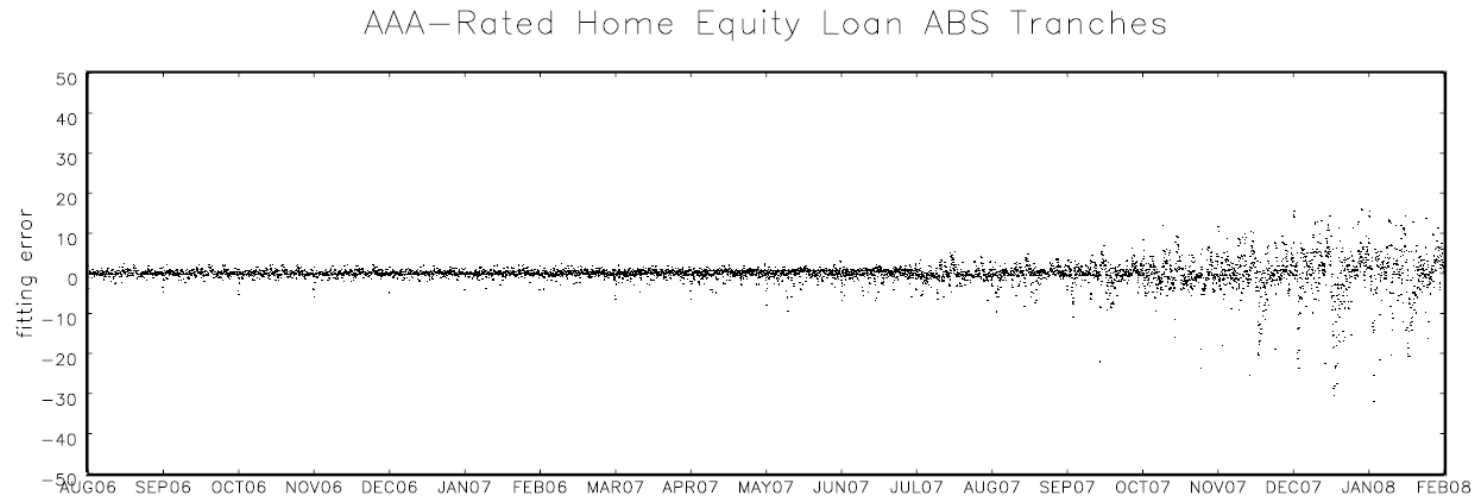
Brown, J., B. McGourty, and T. Schuermann (2015). "Model Risk and the Great Financial Crisis: The Rise of Modern Model Risk Management," ch. 15 in Douglas Evanoff, Andrew Haldane, and George Kaufman (eds.), *The New International Financial System: Analyzing the Cumulative Impact of Regulatory Reform*. World Scientific Studies in International Economics.

“The Formula that Killed Wall Street” *Wired*, Feb. 2009

$$\Pr[T_A < 1, T_B < 1] = \Phi_2(\Phi^{-1}(F_A(1)), \Phi^{-1}(F_B(1)), \gamma)$$



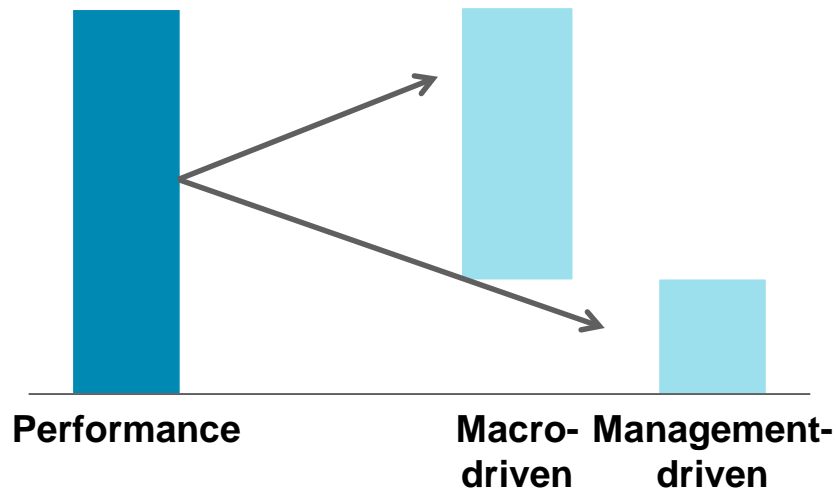
Example: model fitting error on home equity ABS exploded starting in early summer 2007



Source: Perraudin & Wu, 2008, "Determinants of Asset-backed Security Prices in Crisis Periods", Imperial College WP

But models, carefully built and monitored, are really useful for a range of applications

$$\text{Performance} = \beta * \text{Macro} + \alpha$$



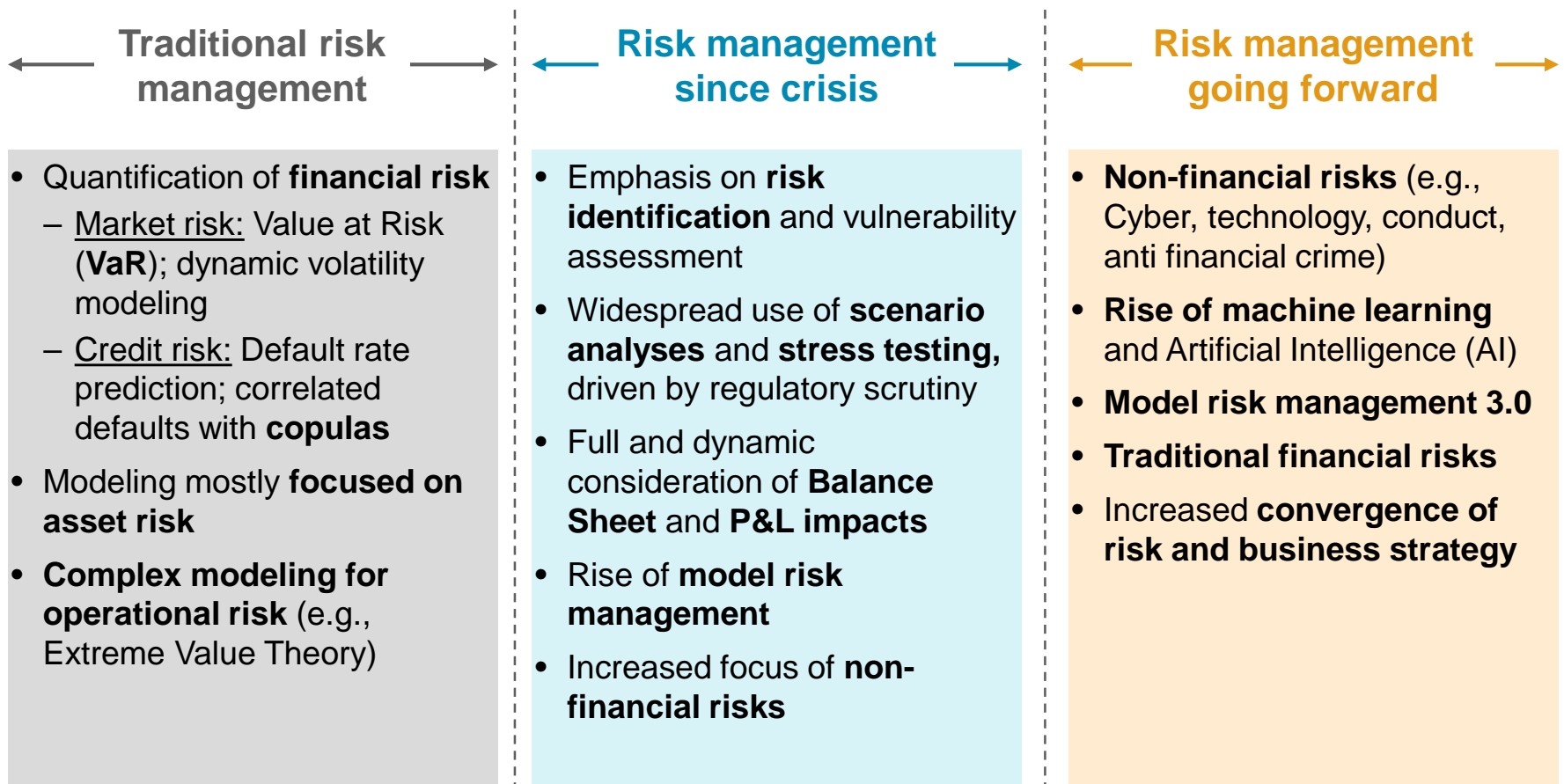
Ex-ante goal setting

- Management can set specific targets for the portion of the performance that they can impact (the alpha)
 - More robust and disciplined discussions on the contribution to performance of various strategic initiatives

Ex-post performance assessment

- Management can assess whether a deviation from plan is due to changes in market and economic conditions or due to management actions

Risk management has evolved significantly since the crisis, with increasing shift towards non-financial risks and machine learning / AI



Machine learning models are entering risk and business functions



Fraud detection and anti-money laundering

Bank used ML to drive 25% to 35% decrease in false positives and 35% increase in fraud detection



Pricing

Bank developed an advanced ML-based pricing analytics platform for its term deposit portfolio pricing strategy



Credit monitoring through sentiment and news analysis

Bank used sentiment analysis to increase Gini of SME early warning monitoring system by 20%



Recommendation engines

JP Morgan developed a predictive recommendation engine to identify clients best positioned for follow-on equity offerings



Portfolio optimization

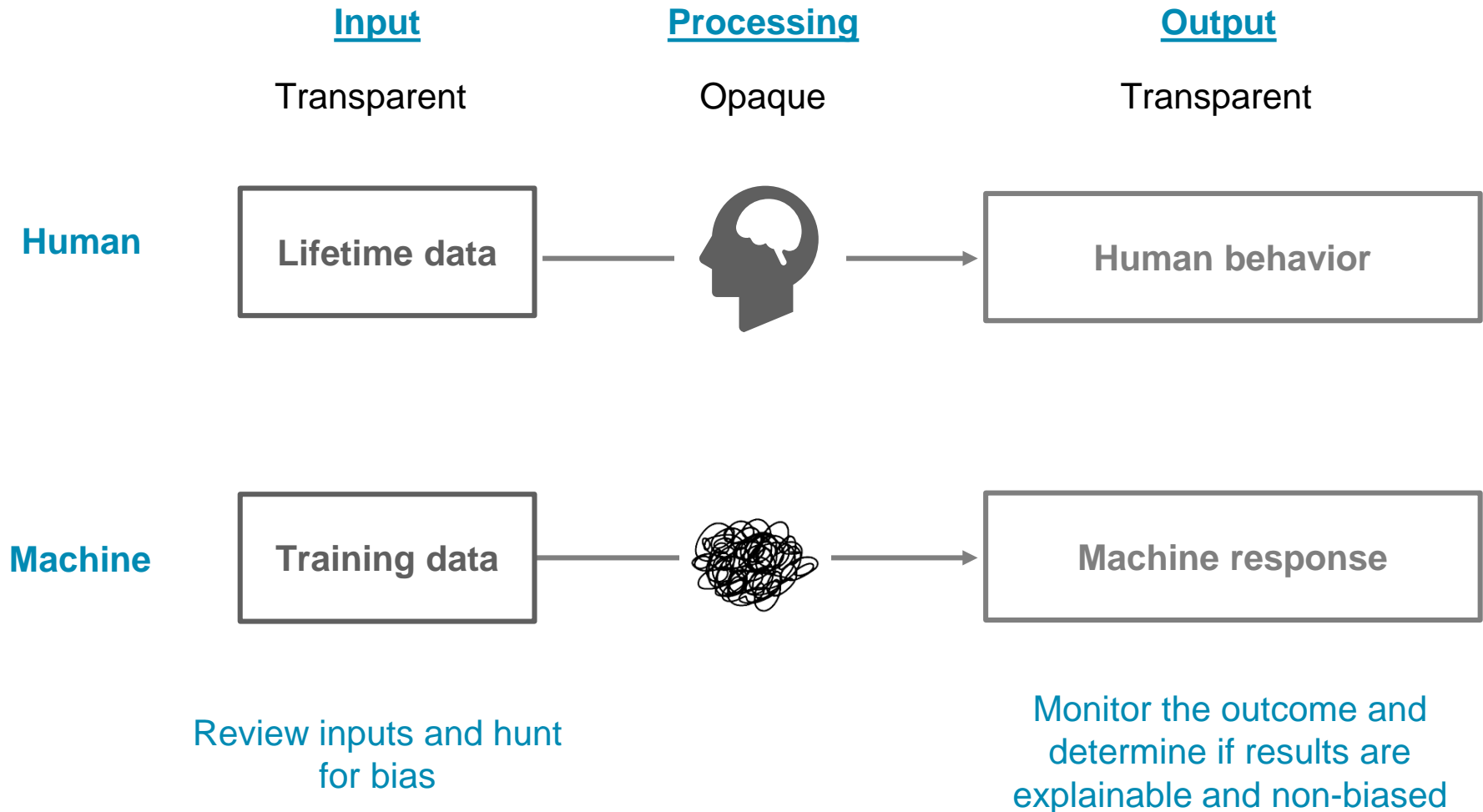
BAML tested an AI-based stock-picking tool to help identify small-cap stock opportunities



Customer advisory

Erica by Bank of America uses ML to make account suggestions and optimize client interactions.

How can we get comfortable with these complex and opaque analytics? One approach: treat machines like humans

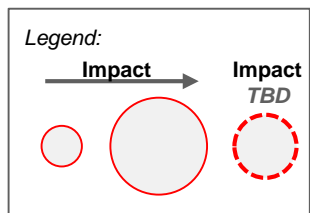
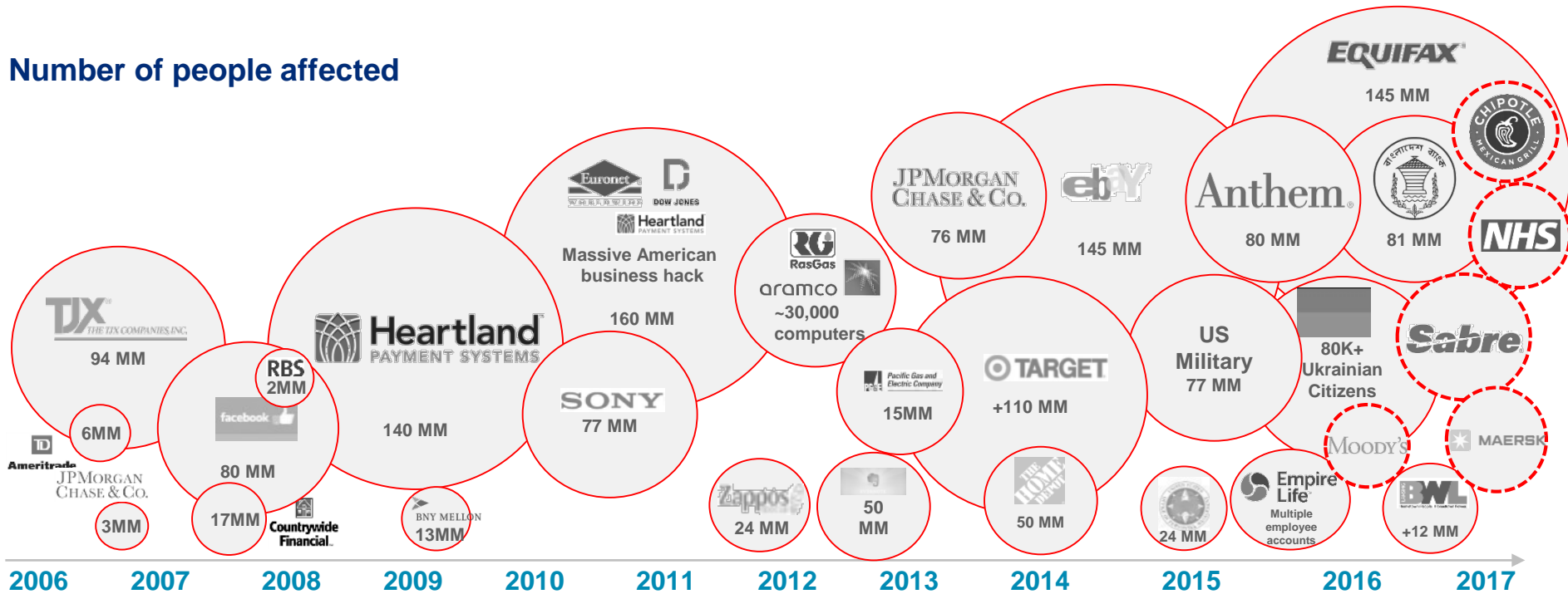


Cyber is in everyone's top-3 risks

WEF estimate of direct & indirect costs: \$500B - \$1T annually

Non-exhaustive

Number of people affected



Source: Company disclosures; Oliver Wyman analysis

What will trigger the next financial crisis?

5 predictions and my own

5 *Wall Street Journal* columnists made predictions on Sept. 7, 2018

1. Interest rate jump
 - After a decade of very low interest rates, are we ready for a rise?
 2. Bad loan boom
 - Rise of corporate debt and record issuance of low credit quality bonds (near junk and junk)
 3. Italy dumps euro
 4. China cracks
 - China debt already over 250% of GDP
 5. Supply chain disruption
 - Real economic global interconnectedness quickly propagates shocks
-
- Massive coordinated cyber attack
 - Financial and electricity infrastructure
 - What can central banks do?

Final thoughts

- The great Financial Crisis was a potent reminder that we are not immune from far tail events
 - And a potent reminder of the critical importance of effective risk management
- Post crisis reform has focused on resilience:
 - Can the banks and the banking system withstand large shocks?
 - What is “large”?
 - Which shocks?
- Do banks have enough loss absorbing capacity – capital?
 - Depends on how severe the shock, and how much capital after
 - E.g.: 2018 US stress test
 - Scenario more extreme than financial crisis
 - Banks had more capital **post** stress than US banks had YE 2006
- Host of new vulnerabilities driven by technology
- But: risk managers have a seat at the table for important strategic decisions
 - Banks are more likely to walk into risk taking with their eyes open

Thank you!

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