EUROPEAN CAPTIVES ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF SOLVENCY II REPORTS

Year-End 2025

October 2026



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I. Introduction: Scope and purpose of the study

This study provides a quantitative overview of the European "captives" market. It is designed to serve as a benchmark and a reference for captive professionals.

Through extensive research SCOR has been able to identify 347 licensed European insurance or reinsurance companies acting as captives for large industrial and commercial companies. Of these, 223 captives have released a "Solvency and Financial Condition Report" (SFCR) including at least some of the regulatory quantitative reports[1].

The study provides a statistical analysis of these captives on the following topics: captive and parent company domicile, breakdown of premium and reserves by line of business, assets and financial investments, solvency ratios and capitalization.

OVERVIEW OF THE "TYPICAL" EUROPEAN CORPORATE CAPTIVE

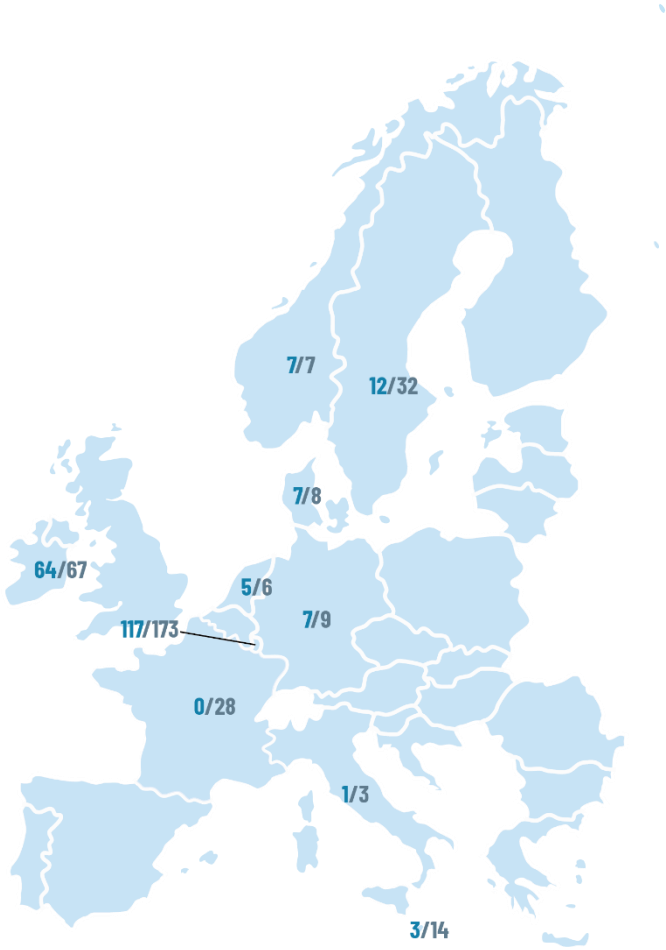
Amounts in EUR millions	25% quantile	Median captive: 50% quantile (median)	75% quantile
Gross Written Premium (Total)	3.9	12.4	33.3
GWP (Non-Life only)	3.5	11.9	33.0
GWP (P&C only)	3.1	10.1	30.7
Net Written Premium (Non-Life)	2.8	9.1	22.4
Balance sheet size	25.8	63.4	144.5
Claim reserves	3.0	12.3	37.0
Own funds	18.9	37.4	95.3
Solvency ratio	169%	221%	301%

While we believe our selected sample is large enough to be representative of the European captive landscape, it is by no means exhaustive. The study also provides statistics at the industrial sector level.

Data presented hereafter is extracted from the collected SFCRs. All amounts are "Solvency II" values.

[1] Data source: Solvency II Wire Data, www.solvencyiiwire.com, September 1st, 2026

NUMBER OF (RE)INSURANCE CAPTIVES PER COUNTRY IN THE EEA



Number of captives selected for the study / Number of « captives»

Source: SCOR

II. Statistical overview of European captives

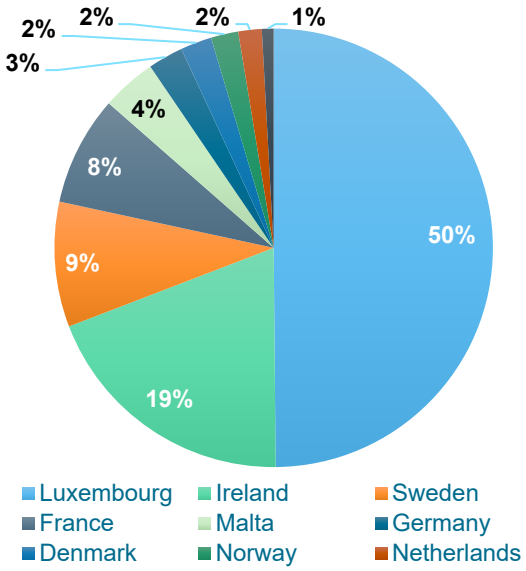
A. Geographical overview

Most of the European captives are based in Luxembourg and Ireland

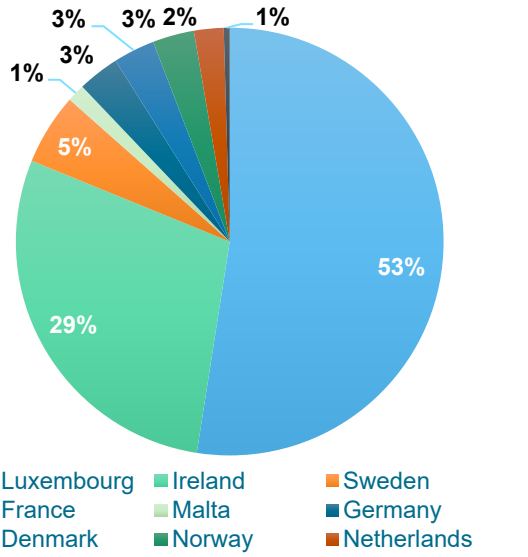
Luxembourg and Ireland are the domiciles for 69% of the European captives and for 81% of the captives in our sample. These two countries account for 81% of reported gross written premium and 78% of reported assets.

CAPTIVES PER DOMICILE COUNTRY

All identified captives



Captives for which some data has been reported



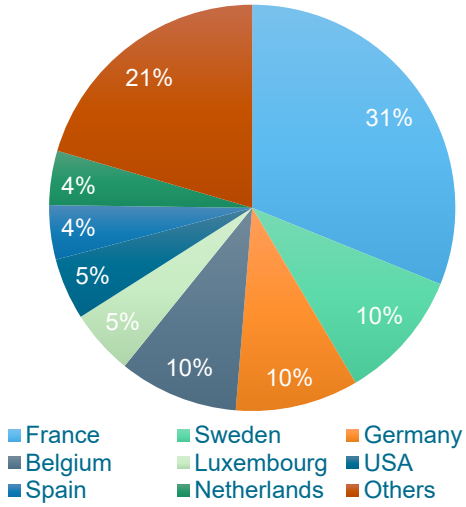
Country of the regulatory license. By number of captives. 347 captives reviewed, including 223 providing at least some data.

European captives mostly belong to groups based in France, Germany and Belgium

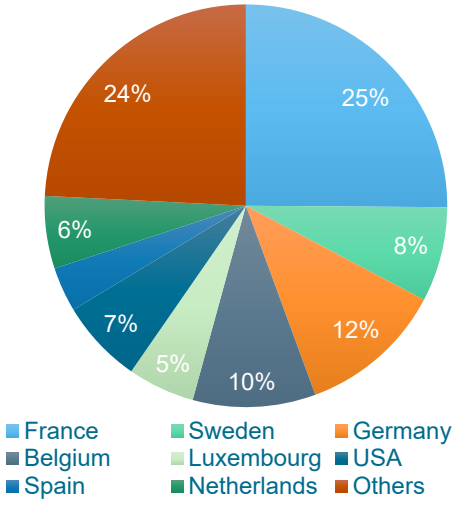
The headquarters of the captive owners are mostly based in western European countries, primarily France, Germany and Belgium, with Sweden also accounting for a significant share

CAPTIVES PER PARENT COMPANY'S COUNTRY

All identified captives



Captives for which some data has been reported



Headquarters of the ultimate parent company of the captive. By number of captives. 347 captives reviewed, including 223 providing data

Some statistical behaviors:

- Captives based in EEA countries other than Ireland, Luxembourg and Malta mostly belong to domestic groups;
- Groups based in Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden mostly domicile their captives in the same country;
- US-based groups mostly locate their European captives in Ireland;
- Groups based in Belgium, France and Spain mostly base their captives in Luxembourg.

DOMICILES OF GROUPS AND THEIR CAPTIVES

Captive / Group	Denmark	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Sweden	Total	*Lux*	*Ireland*	*Domestic*
Belgium	0	0	0	1	0	32	0	0	0	0	**33**	*97%*	*3%*	
Denmark	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**8**	*25%*	*0%*	*75%*
France	0	28	0	11	0	68	1	0	0	0	**108**	*63%*	*10%*	*26%*
Germany	1	0	9	7	0	13	3	0	0	1	**34**	*38%*	*21%*	*26%*
Italy	0	0	0	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	**9**	*44%*	*22%*	*33%*
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	**18**	*100%*	*0%*	*100%*
Netherlands	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	0	**15**	*33%*	*33%*	*33%*
Norway	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	**9**	*0%*	*22%*	*78%*
Spain	0	0	0	3	0	12	0	0	0	0	**15**	*80%*	*20%*	
Sweden	0	0	0	4	0	2	2	0	0	28	**36**	*6%*	*11%*	*78%*
USA	0	0	0	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	**17**	*12%*	*88%*	
Other	1	0	0	17	0	15	8	1	0	3	**45**	*33%*	*38%*	
Total	**8**	**28**	**9**	**67**	**3**	**173**	**14**	**6**	**7**	**32**	**347**	*50%*	*19%*	
Domestic	*75%*	*100%*	*100%*		*100%*	*10%*		*83%*	*100%*	*88%*				

Source: SCOR – Scope: 347 captives

B. Premium

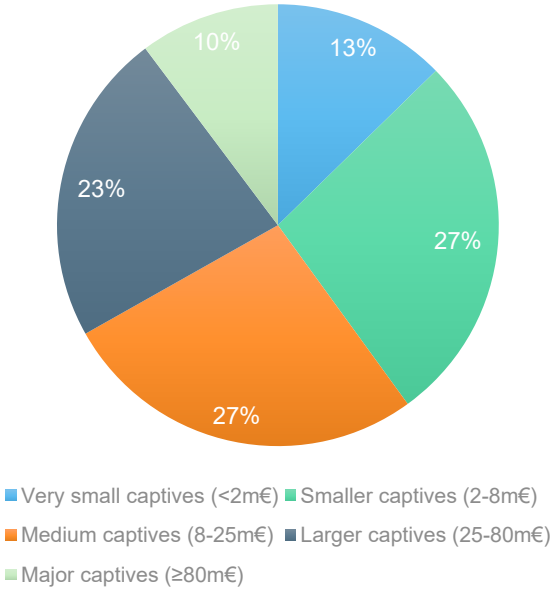
The median captive writes premium of around EUR 12 million

The gross annual Non-Life premium written by the captives in the sample amounts to a total of EUR 6,598 million. This is largely driven by a few major players:

- The largest captive writes over EUR 501 million, while the smallest ones write less than EUR 0.1 million;
- 8% of the captives account for half the total premium over the sample, which is as much as the other 92%;
- Half of the captives write less than EUR 12 million of Non-Life gross premium, half write more.

In order to strengthen the relevance of the analysis in light of the strong heterogeneity of the market, we decided to subsequently consider five categories of captives, according to their size.

CAPTIVE SIZE (GROSS WRITTEN PREMIUM)
CATEGORIES USED FOR THE ANALYSIS

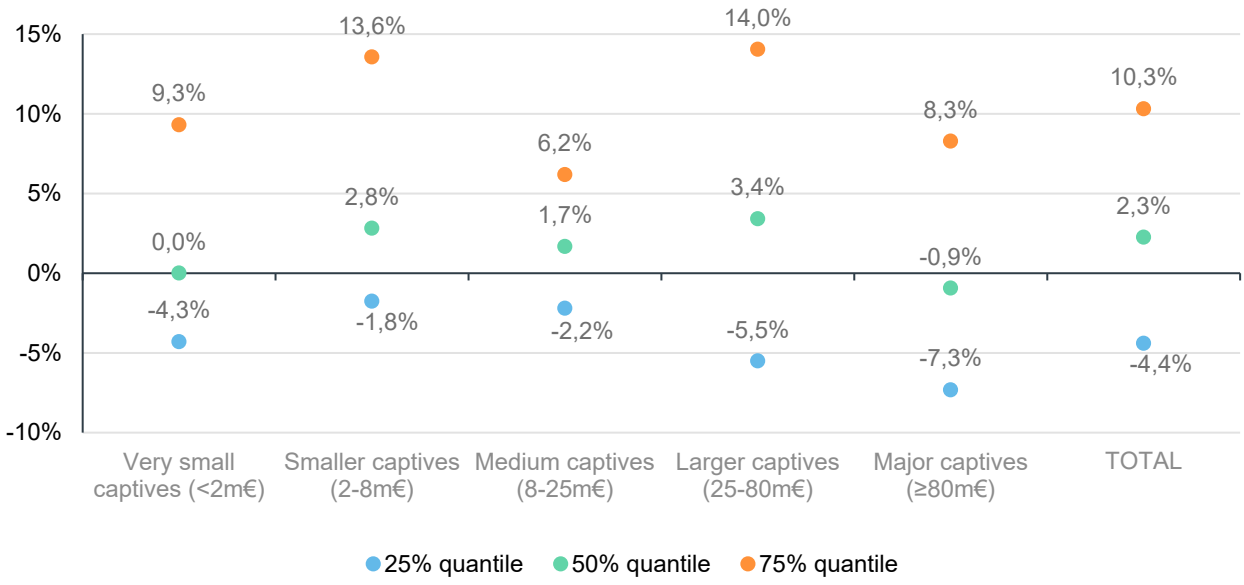


Number of captives by gross written premium category – Scope: 205 captives providing report S05.01.02 on premium and writing some Non-Life business

For the median captive, premium has grown by 2% since last year

Most of the captives report some growth in their gross written premium.

PREMIUM GROWTH BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025 (NON-LIFE)

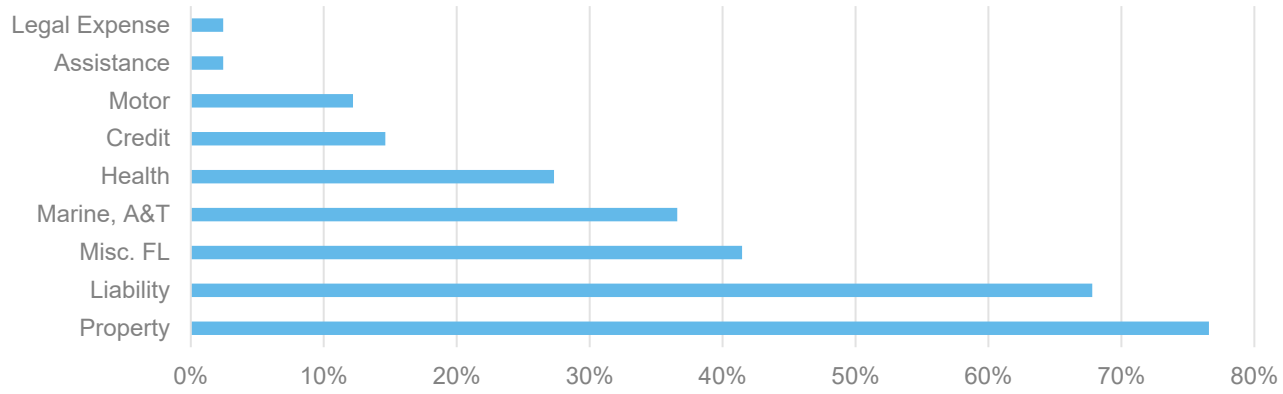


Change in gross written premium – Scope: 173 captives providing premium data premium on both years

Half of the business written by captives is Property

Captives report on their premium according to the lines of business defined by the Solvency II framework.

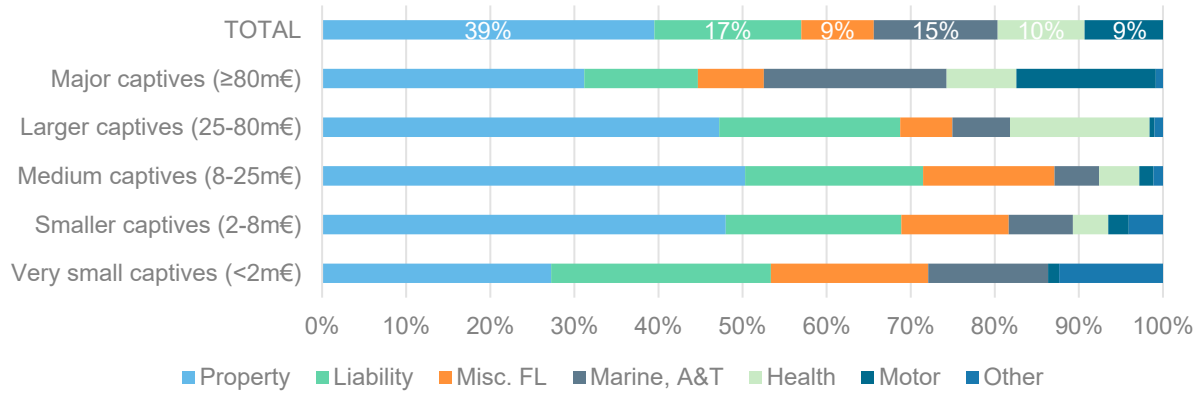
OCCURRENCE OF EACH LINE OF BUSINESS



Frequency of a positive gross written premium for the Line of business – Scope: 205 captives

Property business is the most frequent, with 77% of the captives writing some, amounting to an average of 39% of the total Non-Life premium. Liability business is the second most frequent line, written by 68% of the captives, amounting to 17% of the premium. Many captives (55%) write both Property and Liability business. Very few captives write Legal expense or Assistance business.

PREMIUM MIX PER SIZE OF CAPTIVE



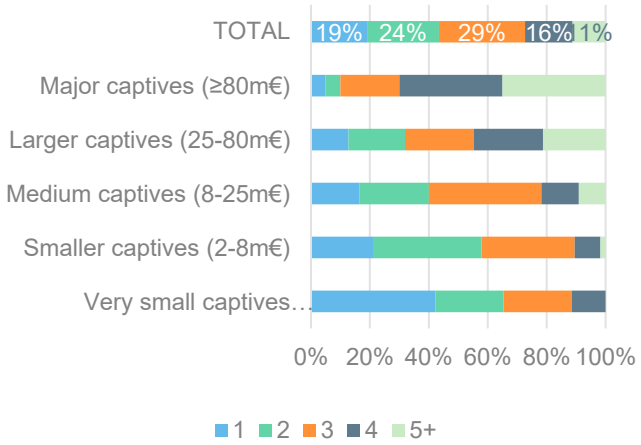
Gross written premium Non-Life per Solvency II Line of business – Scope: 205 captives

The median captive manages two or three different lines of business

The larger captives tend to be present on a wider range of risks.

Captives writing only one line of business (19%), also called “monoliners”, are mostly dedicated to writing Property (7%), Liability (5%), MFL business (3%), Health (2%) or Marine (1%). Their average size is EUR 15 million in gross written premium, the largest being EUR 180 million, and their cumulated share is 8.5% of the overall sample premium.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LINE OF BUSINESS WRITTEN BY CAPTIVE



Number of different Non-Life Lines of Business written by a captive
Scope: 205 captives

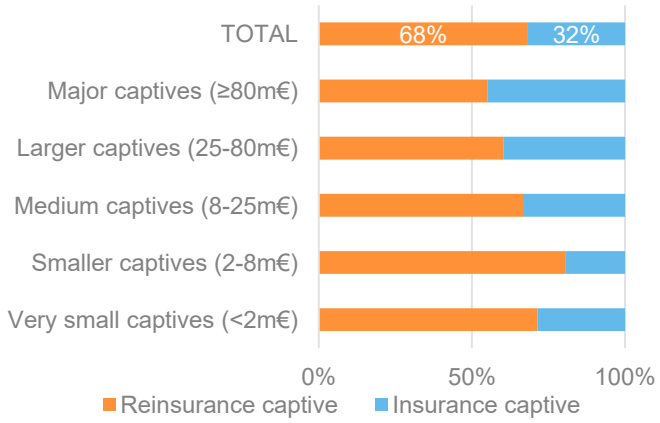
Most of the business written by captives is reinsurance business (68%)

Gross written premium can be further differentiated between the premium written directly and premium assumed via reinsurance.

A third of the captives in the sample write direct business, the proportion being lower for the smaller captives and larger for the bigger ones. This requires the captives to be granted an insurance license by their national authorities for each of the lines of business in which they operate. When they have an insurance license to operate in one line, captives can provide reinsurance services and take on any business from other insurance companies, provided their articles of incorporation permit it.

Direct insurance premium makes 32% of the analyzed business.

NATURE OF THE CAPTIVE



Number of captives reporting some “direct business” gross written premium Non-Life – Scope: 205 captives

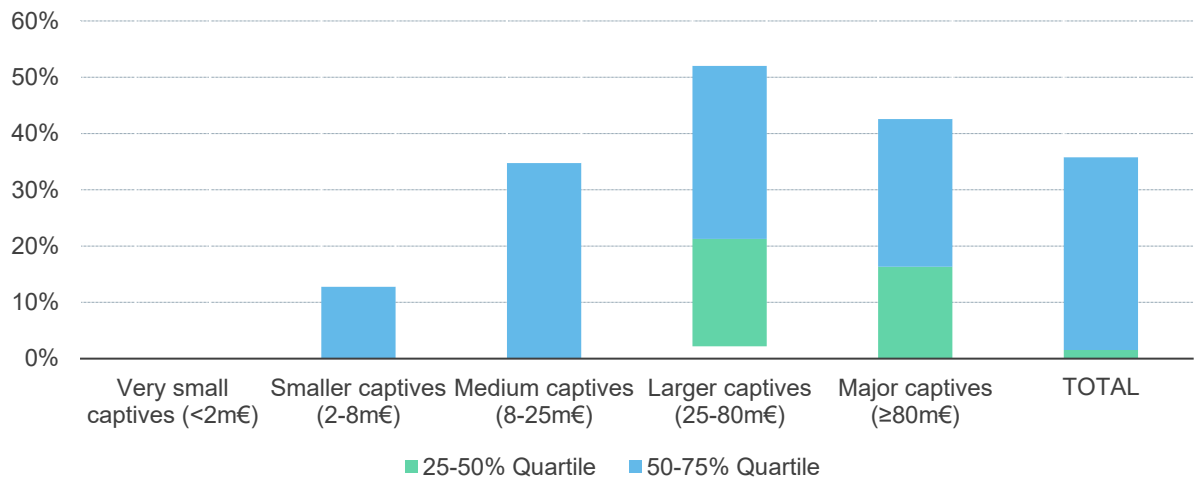
The median captive retrocedes 2% of its premium, with a strong heterogeneity

Regarding the total premium, 26% of the total premium written by the captives is retroceded.

Behaviors are very different. Many captives retain all their risk (47% of the captives don't retrocede any premium[2], and the median premium cession rate is 1.5%), while some retrocede most of it (10% of the captives retrocede more than 65% of their GWP).

As illustrated below, the bigger captives tend to retrocede a higher share of their premium.

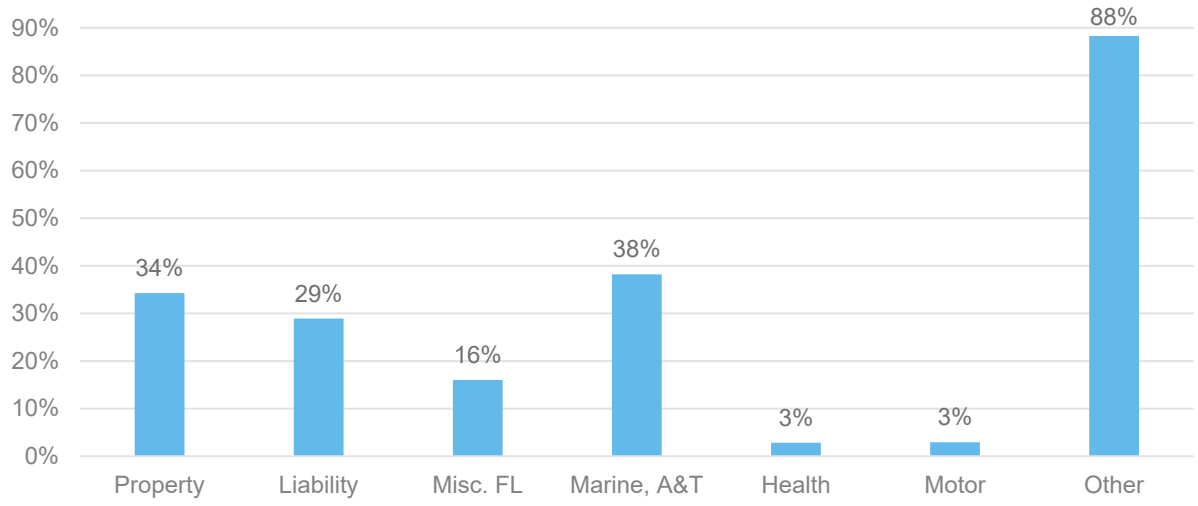
PREMIUM CESSION



Distribution of cession rate for gross written premium Scope: 205 captives

The average cession rate is different for the different lines of business. Motor premium is almost fully retained, whereas over one third of Marine premium is ceded or retroceded.

PREMIUM CESSION PER LINE OF BUSINESS



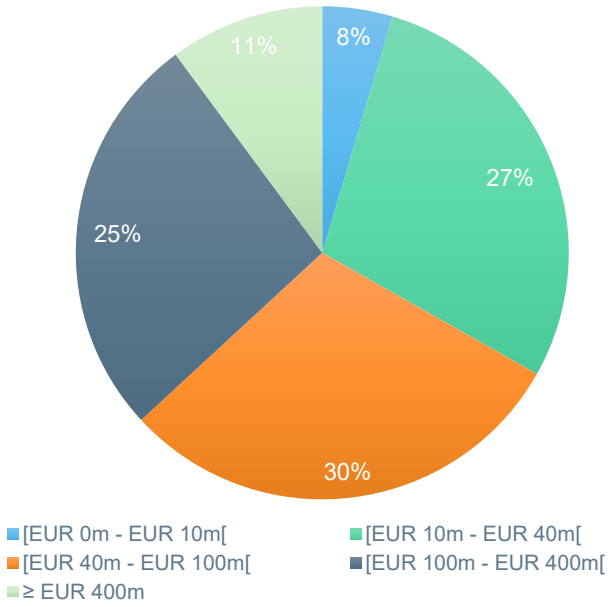
Average cession rate of Non-Life Gross written premium Scope: 205 captives

[2] Based on the information reported by the companies in the quantitative report S.05.01.02

The median captive accounts for EUR 63 million

The total assets held by captives within our sample amount to EUR 37,276 million. The average balance sheet size is EUR 171 million, and the median EUR 63 million. Again, this is very heterogeneous, with certain captives exceeding EUR 3,370 million and others standing at less than EUR 2 million.

SIZE OF A CAPTIVE'S THE BALANCE SHEET



Total size of the Solvency II balance sheet
Scope: 218 captives providing report S.02.01 on balance sheet

The link between the size of the balance sheet and the size of the captive, as defined previously by their gross written premium, is illustrated in the table below.

	Size of the balance sheet (EUR millions)		
Premium written by the captive	**25% quantile**	**50% quantile**	**75% quantile**
Very small captives (<2m€)	8.6	17.5	22.3
Smaller captives (2-8m€)	19.2	32.2	55.8
Medium captives (8-25m€)	50.5	75.9	114.6
Larger captives (25-80m€)	109.0	171.2	243.3
Major captives (≥80m€)	498.6	725.1	1,151.6
TOTAL	25.8	63.4	144.5

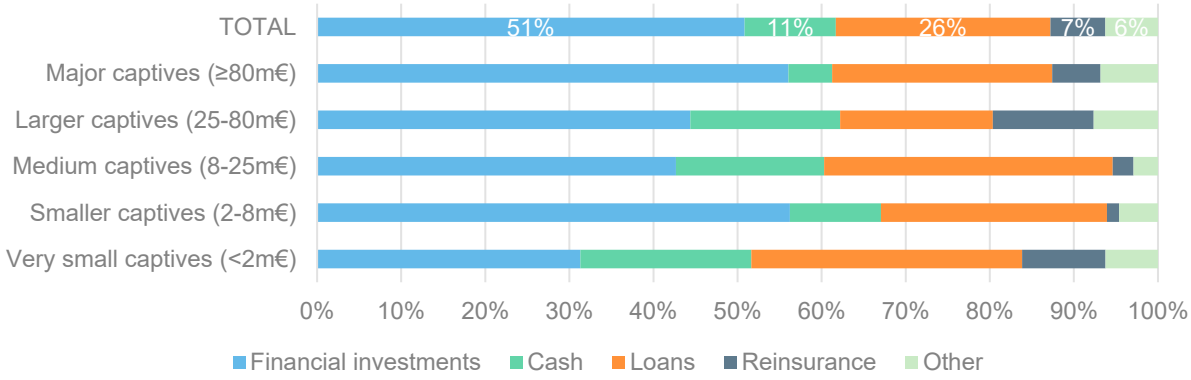
Two thirds of the assets are made up of financial investments and cash

Almost all the captives (95%) report some cash or cash equivalent assets. Most (78%) also report some financial investments. Together, these two accounting items represent almost two thirds (62%) of the total assets on the balance sheet.

Half of the captives (56%) hold loans. This usually includes loans to related companies.

One third of the captives (36%) hold reinsurance recoverable. Other assets are made up of deposits to cedants and various receivables.

ASSET ALLOCATION

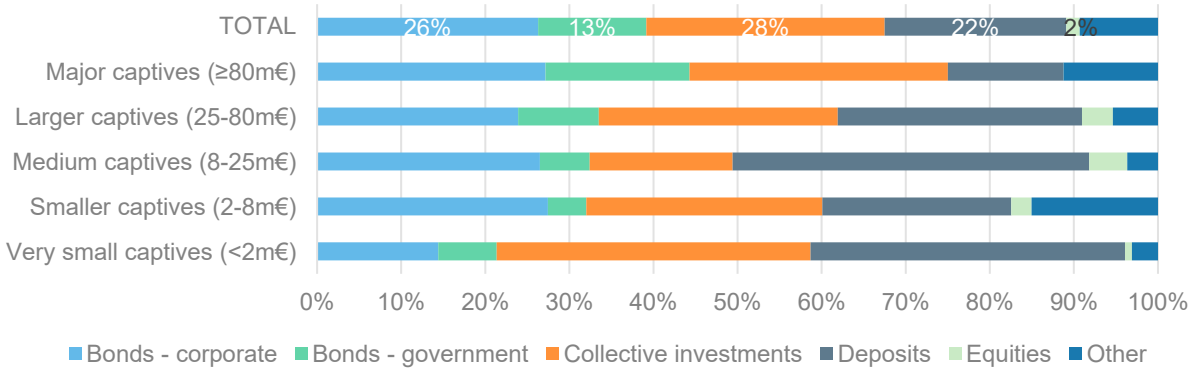


Average asset allocation, per captive size category Scope: 218 captives

Investments are directed towards bonds (39%)

Financial investments are made up of deposits, collective investment undertakings, corporate and sovereign bonds. Equities and participations account for a very limited share of the total, and there are hardly any investments in real estate, collateralized securities or derivatives.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS



Average financial investments allocation (non-cash), per captive size category Scope: 218 captives

D. Technical provisions

The median captive holds EUR 12 million of technical provisions

Technical provisions (gross of reinsurance and net of recoveries, including best estimate for claims and best estimate for premium) amount to EUR 9,865 million in the sample. On average this is EUR 46 million per captive, ranging up to EUR 539 million for the biggest one.

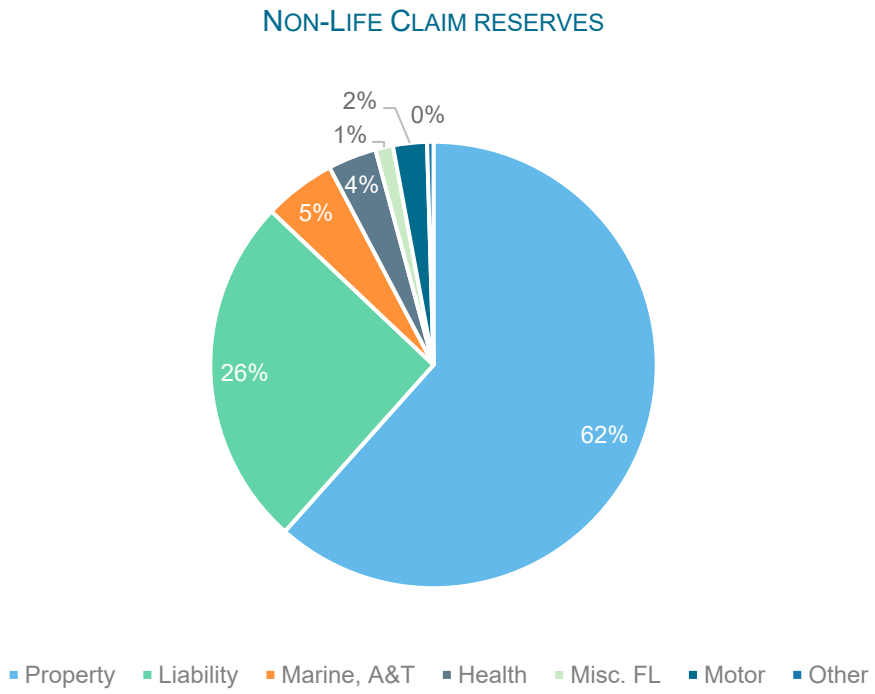
Under Solvency II rules, technical provisions are split between Life and Non-Life, then further split between Health and Other.

	Non-Life technical provisions		Life technical provisions		
	Health Non-Life	Other	Health Life	Other	Unit Linked
Occurrence	23%	88%	6%	9%	23%
Share	5.2%	89.5%	1.0%	4.2%	0.0%

No captive in the sample reports any technical provision related to unit-linked liabilities. Overall, technical provisions related to Life guarantees are 5% of the total. Non-life technical provisions account for 95% of the total technical provisions.

Property business makes up 62% of the Non-Life claim reserves

When focusing on the Solvency II "Best estimate of Claim reserves", it appears that Property and Liability businesses generate the largest share of the provisions.



Split of the best estimate for claims reserve, gross of reinsurance
Scope: 203 captives providing report S.17.01 on NL claims estimates

The link between the amount of claim reserves and the size of the captive, as defined previously by their gross written premium, is illustrated in the table below.

All amounts in EUR	Best estimate of claim reserves		
Premium written by the captive	**25% quantile**	**50% quantile**	**75% quantile**
Very small captives (<2m€)	0.4	1.3	3.1
Smaller captives (2-8m€)	2.2	4.7	9.3
Medium captives (8-25m€)	5.1	15.2	24.2
Larger captives (25-80m€)	29.6	46.8	89.6
Major captives (≥80m€)	125.4	179.2	276.1
TOTAL	3.0	12.3	37.0

Other financial liabilities are not material in the balance sheet

On the liabilities side of the balance sheet, own funds and technical provisions are the main components, making up respectively 60% and 26% of the total.

Most captives (78%) also report some deferred tax liabilities, amounting to 8% of the balance sheet size. Payables account for 4%. Financial debts, subordinated debt and other debts are not material.

E. Own funds

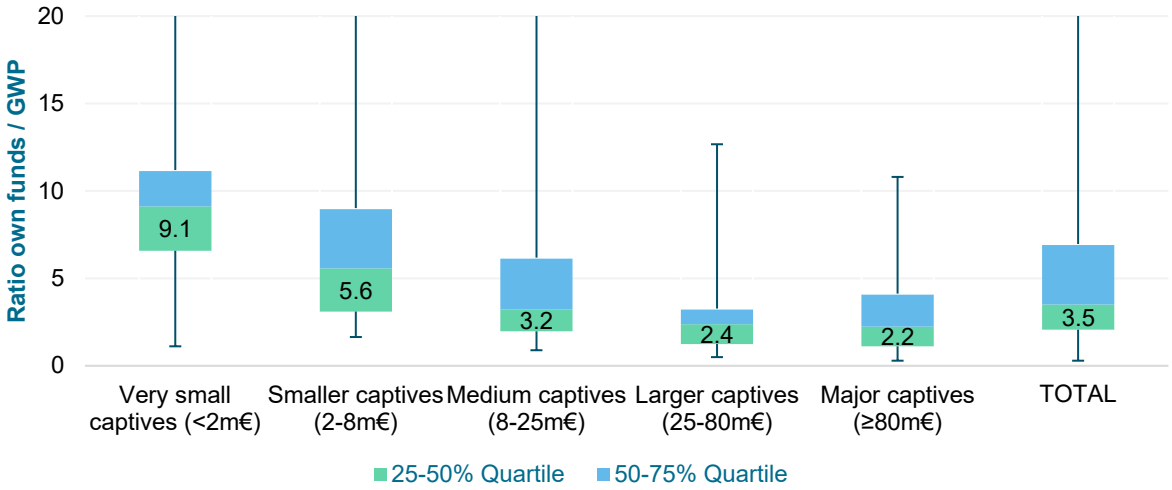
The median captive holds EUR 37 million of own funds

In the sample, total available own funds (OF, i.e. the net value of the captives on the economic balance sheet) amount to EUR 23,148 million, i.e. EUR 103 million per captive on average. Own funds range from EUR 1.7 million for the smallest captives up to EUR 2,680 million for the largest.

Own funds are about three times the premium plus EUR 25 million

There is some obvious correlation between own funds and gross written premium. Statistical analysis of the sample shows that the own funds are about three times the gross written premium plus EUR 25 million. Yet the amount of own funds also depends on the risk written, the diversification between risks, the reinsurance in place, the growth perspectives, the risk appetite of the captive, etc.

LINK BETWEEN OWN FUNDS AND PREMIUM

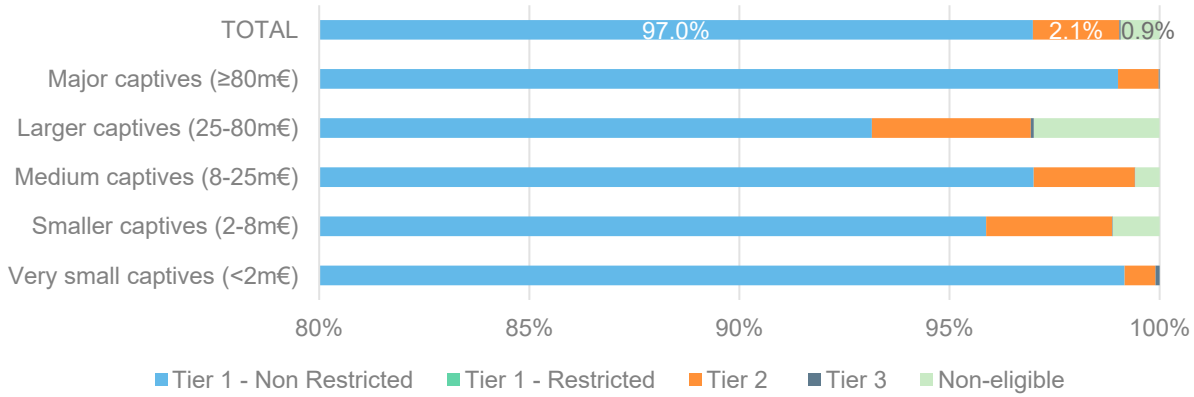


Distribution (min, max, quartiles) of Available Own funds divided by Gross written premium, per captive size
Scope: 206 captives

For larger captives, this own-funds ratio tends to be lower. This can be explained by the diversification benefits available to larger companies and by their more sophisticated approach to capital management.

The own funds are predominantly composed of "non-restricted Tier 1" items (97%)

COMPOSITION OF SOLVENCY II "OWN FUNDS" OF THE CAPTIVES



Average tiering of available own funds into the Solvency II regulatory categories, as per captive premium size
Scope: 223 captives providing report S.23 on own funds and solvency

As per the solvency calculation rules, capital is split between:

- "Tier 1 non-restricted" amounts (shares and accumulated profit, including unrealized gains);
- No company in the sample uses "Restricted Tier 1 items";

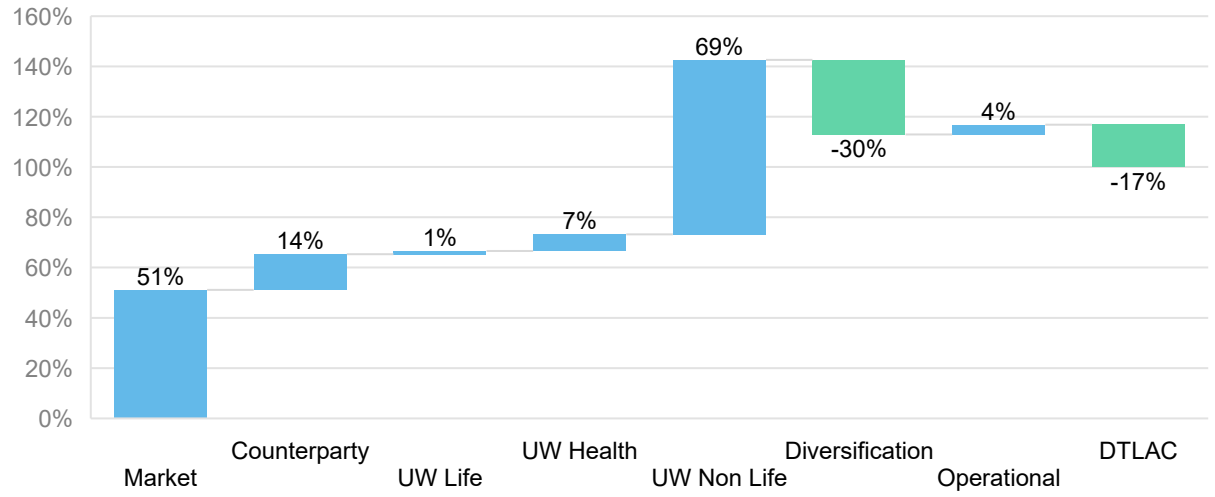
- Few captives (14%) report some “Tier 2” amounts. This most often includes subordinated loans but can also include some ancillary own funds such as a letter of credit;
- Even less captives (9%) report some “Tier 3” own funds, which are made up of the net deferred tax assets on their balance sheet. The amount is usually very small;
- And 5% of the captives subtract some “non-eligible” items from their “available” own funds, either by removing some non-admitted funding items or capping the share of lower-Tier items, as per Solvency II rules.

F. Risk capital and solvency

Non-Life underwriting risk generates 69% of the capital requirement

Non-Life underwriting risk is the main risk for the captives. It encompasses premium risk (if the premiums charged are not sufficient to face future attritional claims, due to adverse frequency or severity), reserve risk (if the booked reserves are not sufficient to face the remaining settlement of past claims, due to adverse deviation) and CAT risk (exposure to the most severe natural or man-made catastrophes), as well as the diversification between those risks. Non-Life underwriting risk is measured based on net “P&C” premium and reserve amounts and net exposures and thus can be reduced by reinsurance.

SOLVENCY CAPITAL REQUIREMENT – SPLIT PER RISK MODULE



Average split of the capital requirement between the contributing risks, Solvency II Standard Formula
UW = underwriting risk; Op. risk = operational risk; DTLAC = loss absorbing capacity of deferred tax.
Scope 190 captives providing the S25.01 report and writing at least EUR 100,000 “P&C” premium

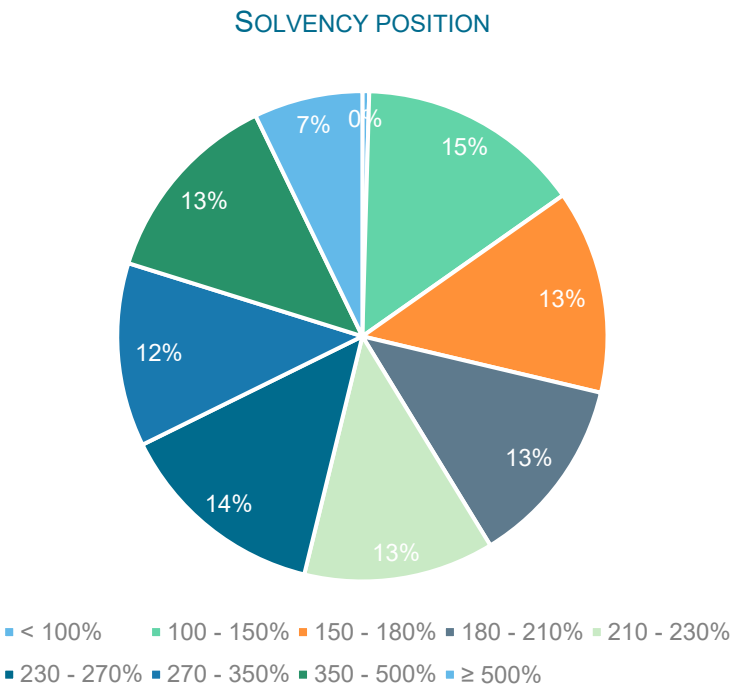
The Solvency II standard formula requires capital for each of the following risks:

- All the captives in the sample report a capital requirement for market risk. As a general rule, market risk is driven by the more volatile investments (equities), a mismatch between assets and liabilities, or a concentration on a single counterparty;
- Counterparty risk reflects the default risk of a counterparty (bond issuer, creditor, account keeper reinsurer), based on its credit rating. For captives, the counterparty risk might be a consequence of intra-group loans and cash pooling schemes;

- Diversification between the five main risks is recognized for an average of 30%. The more balanced the risk profile, the higher the diversification benefit;
- Operational risk is usually not material;
- Two third of the captives (68%) model the loss-absorbing capacity of deferred tax (LAC DT), when a large loss scenario would give rise to a tax credit or offset an existing tax liability.

The median captive holds twice the capital required by law

The solvency ratio is calculated as the eligible own funds amount divided by the solvency capital requirement[3]. The captives in the sample show a solvency ratio between 88% and 1,666%. The median ratio is 221%



Distribution of the solvency ratios – Scope: 223 captives

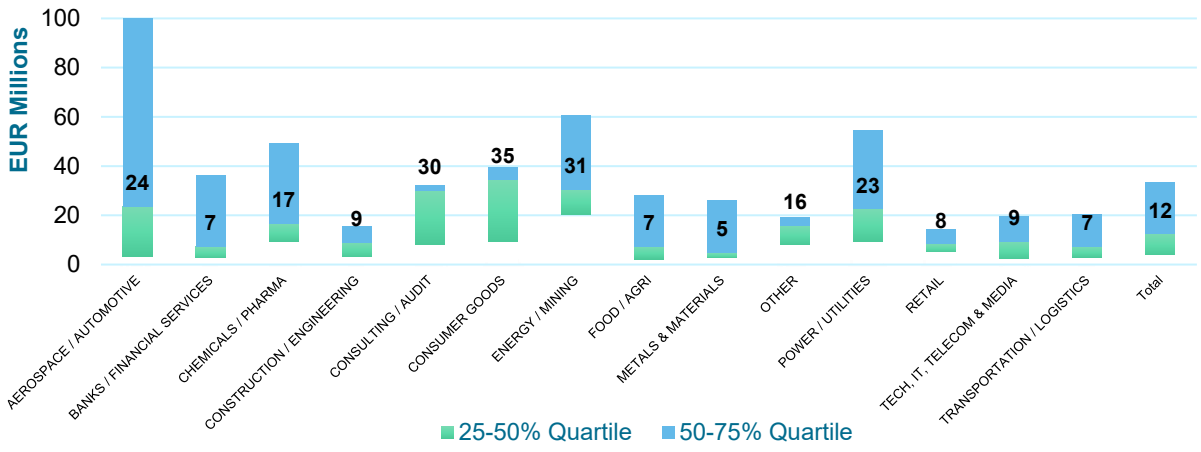
[3] The minimum capital requirement MCR position has not been studied here.

III. Focus on industrial sectors

To provide some benchmarks by peer groups, the captives in the study have been further categorized by industrial sector. The 14 sectors considered each contain between 8 and 29 captives.

This first chart shows the average gross premium written by the captives for each industrial sector, as well as the distribution per quartile. The median value is reported on the chart.

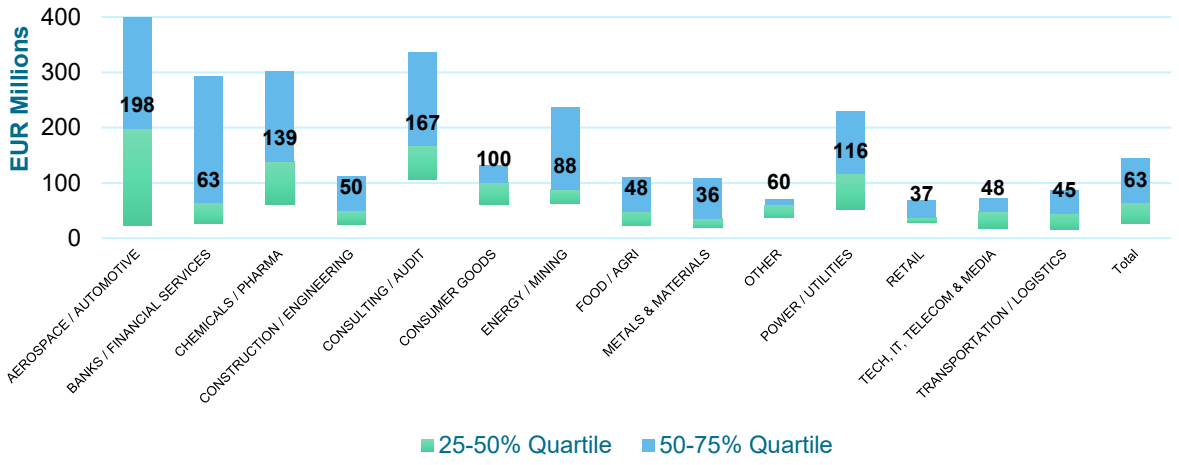
GROSS WRITTEN PREMIUM



Scope: 206 captives

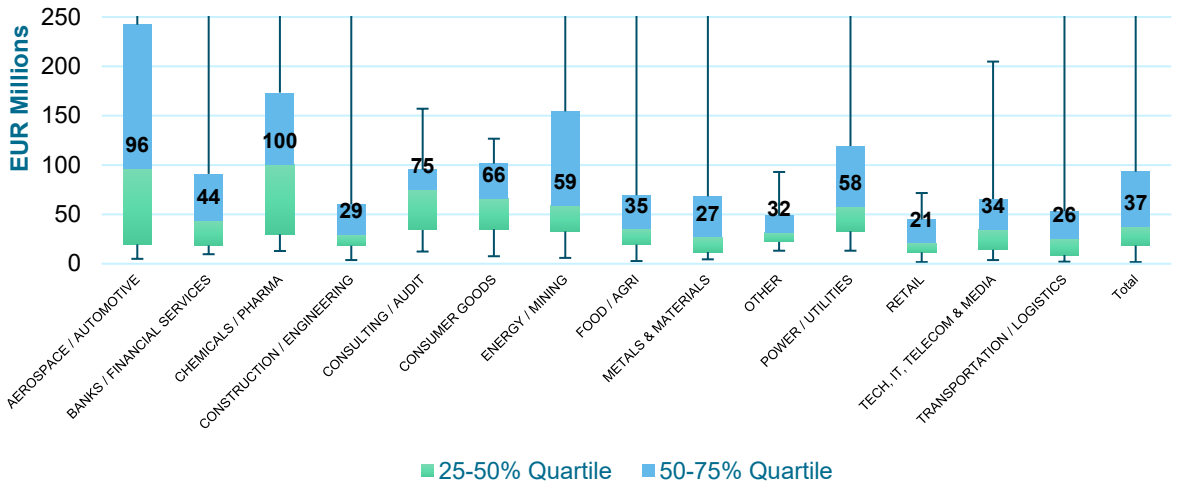
Read: for the captives of groups in the fields of Aerospace and Automobile, the median annual gross written premium is EUR 24 million. The smallest captive writes EUR 2 million; the smallest 25% of the captives write between EUR 2 million and EUR 3 million; the second quartile between 3 and 23, etc. The largest captive in this group writes premium of EUR 270 million.

SIZE OF THE BALANCE SHEET



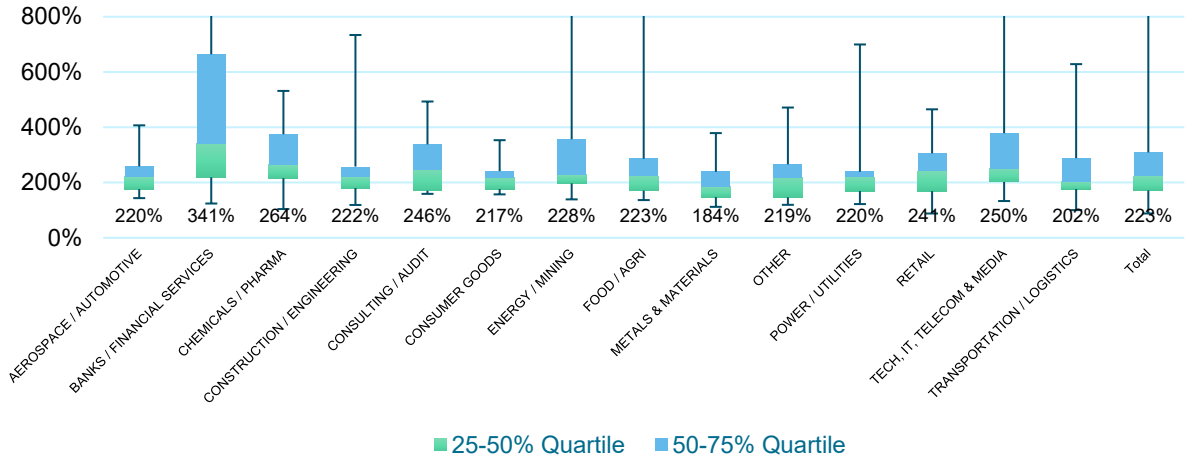
Scope: 218 captives

CAPITAL



Scope: 223 captives

SOLVENCY RATIO



Scope: 223 captives

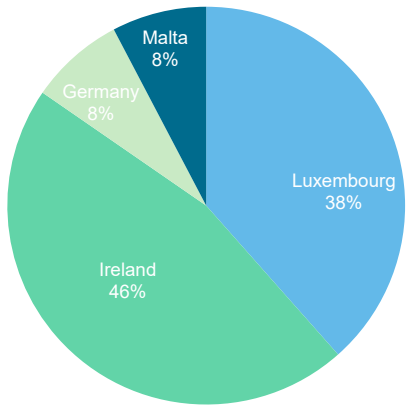
For each industrial sector, the following appendix provides some figures allowing each company to benchmark themselves on their market. The information provided is as follows:

- Number of captives that have provided data about their solvency and about their premium, and who write at least some “Non-Life” business;
- Domicile of the captives;
- Number of different lines of business written by such captives;
- Business mix of each captive (gross written premium per line of business);
- Solvency position of each captive (own funds and capital requirement).

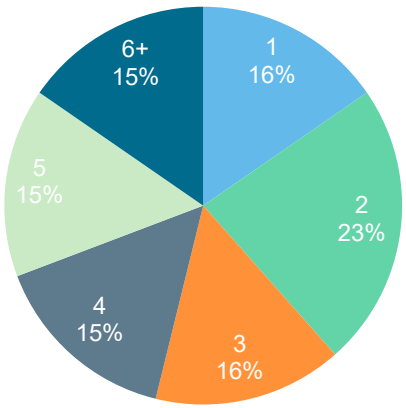
IV. Appendix

A. AEROSPACE / AUTOMOTIVE (13 CAPTIVES)

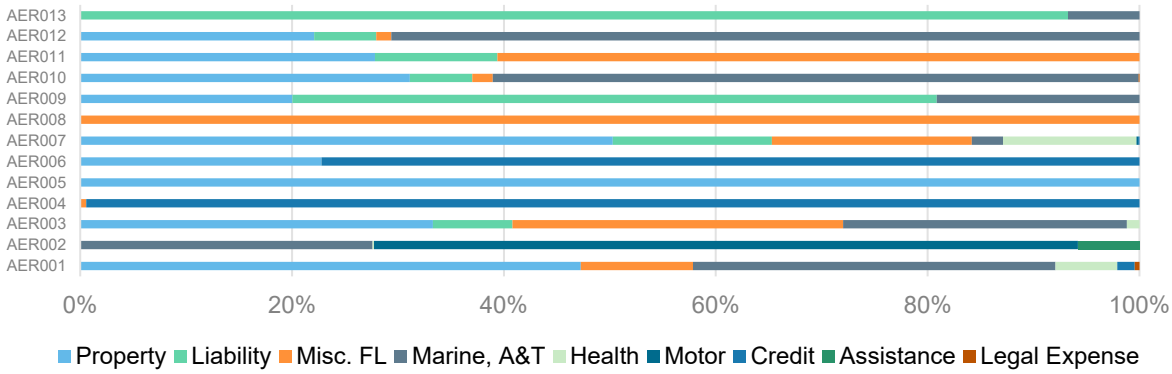
Domicile of the captive



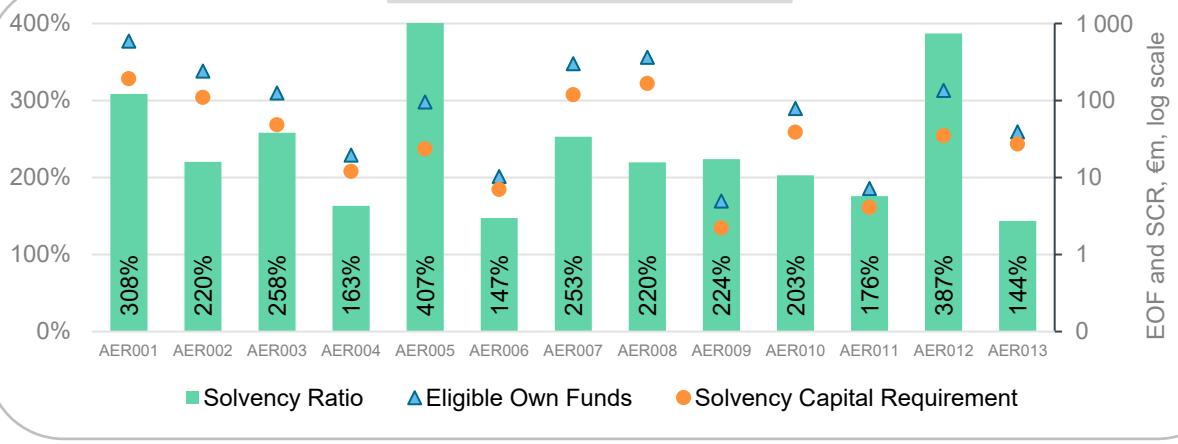
Number of LOB



Composition of the GW Premium

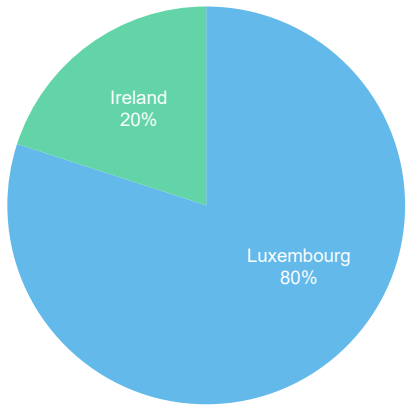


Solvency Position



B. BANKS / FINANCIAL (15 CAPTIVES)

Domicile of the captive



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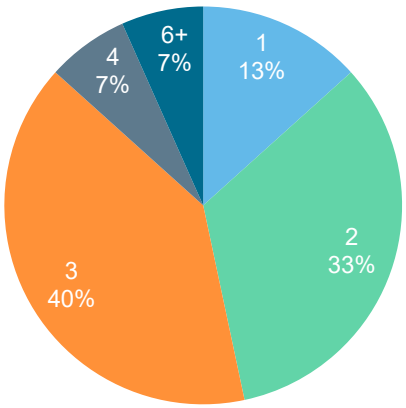
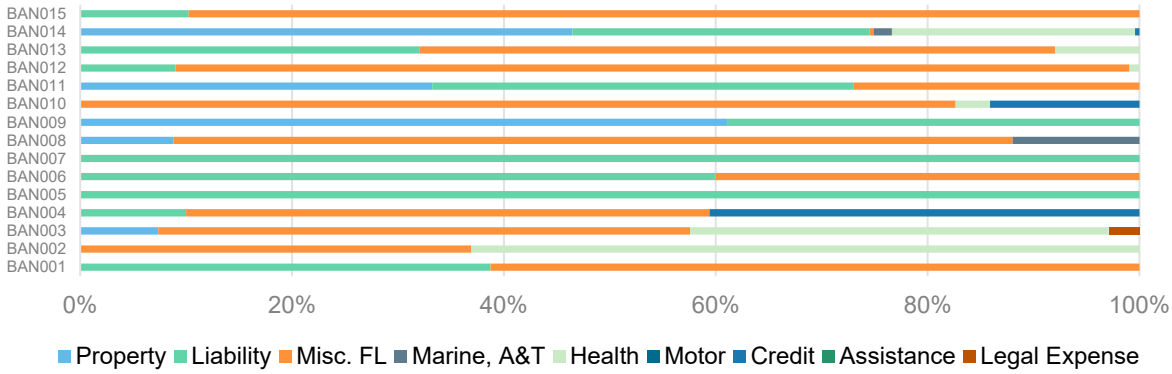
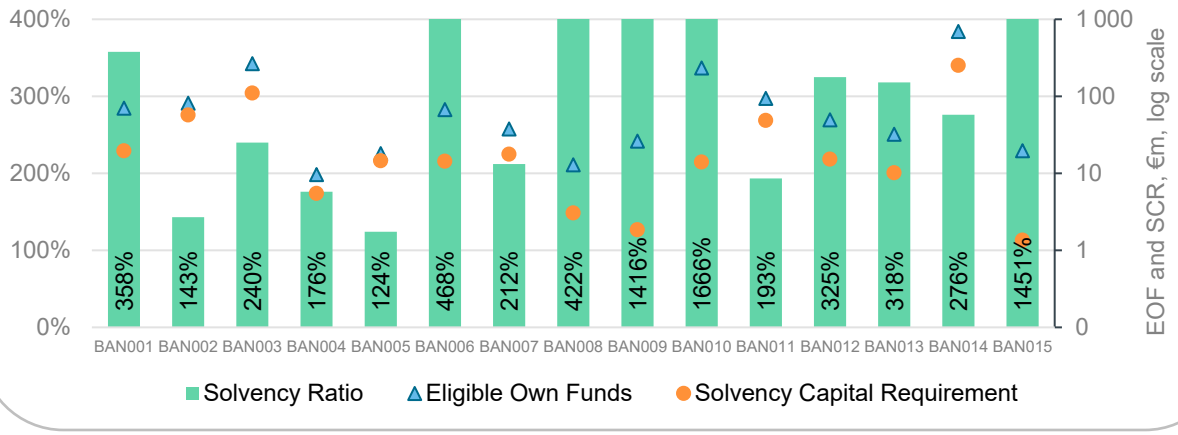


Composition of the GW Premium

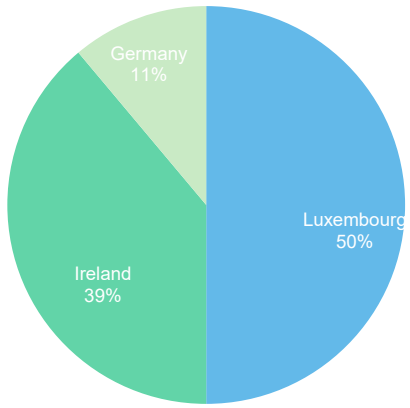


Solvency Position

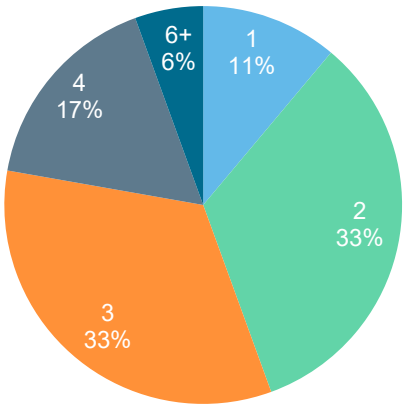


C. CHEMICALS/PHARMA (18 CAPTIVES)

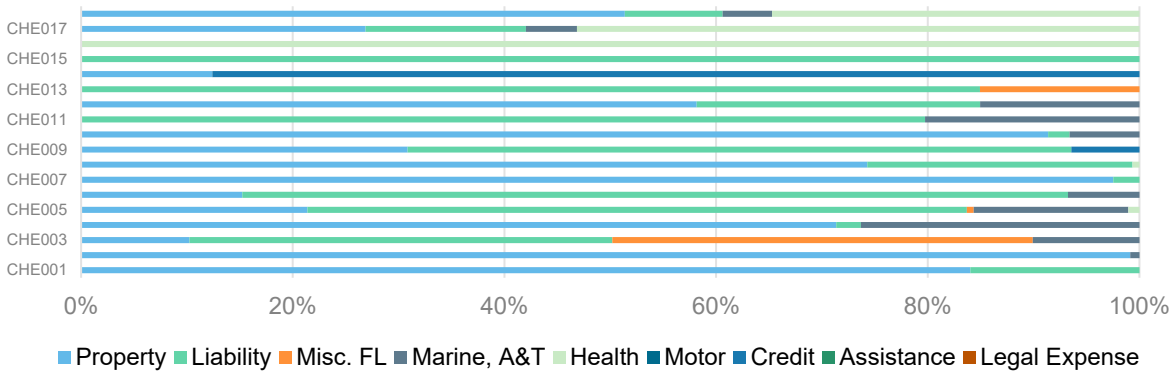
Domicile of the captive



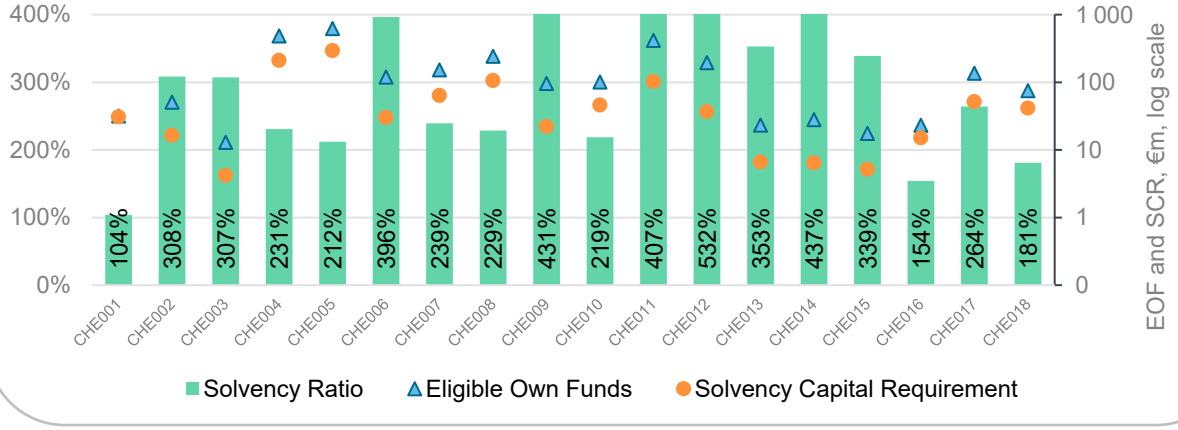
Number of LOB



Composition of the GW Premium

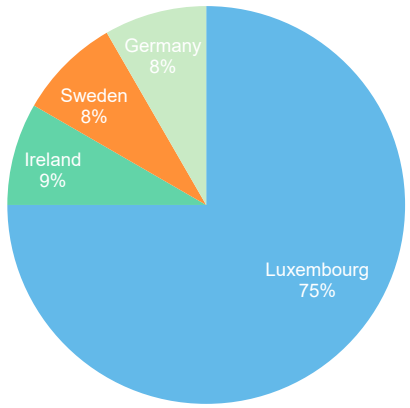


Solvency position

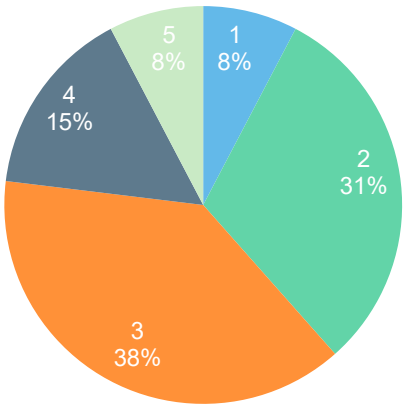


D. CONSTRUCTION / ENGINEERING (13 CAPTIVES)

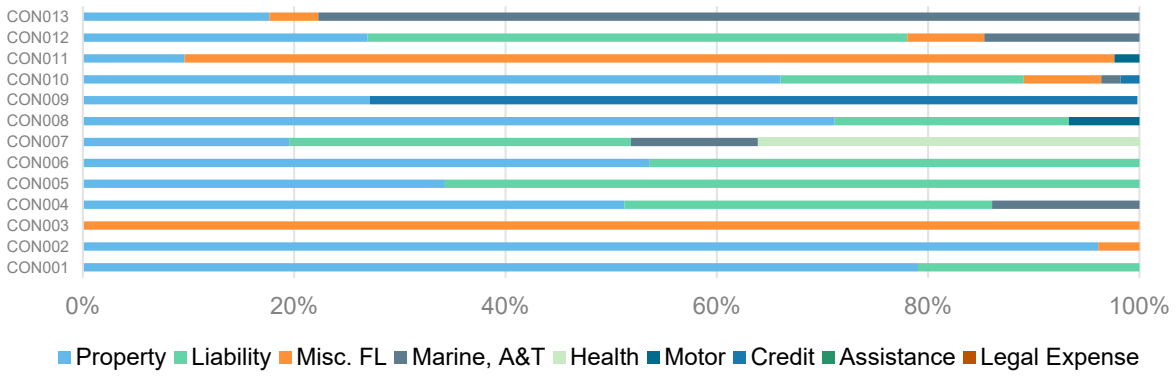
Domicile of the captive



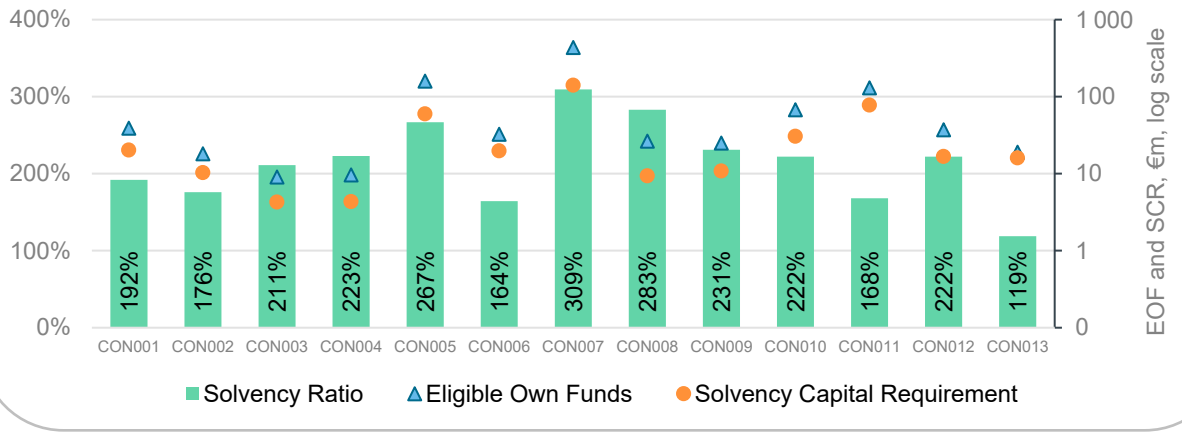
Number of LOB



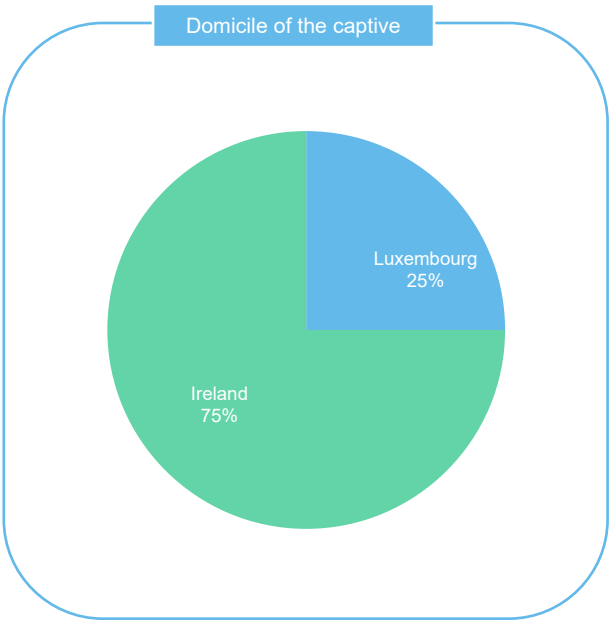
Composition of the GW Premium

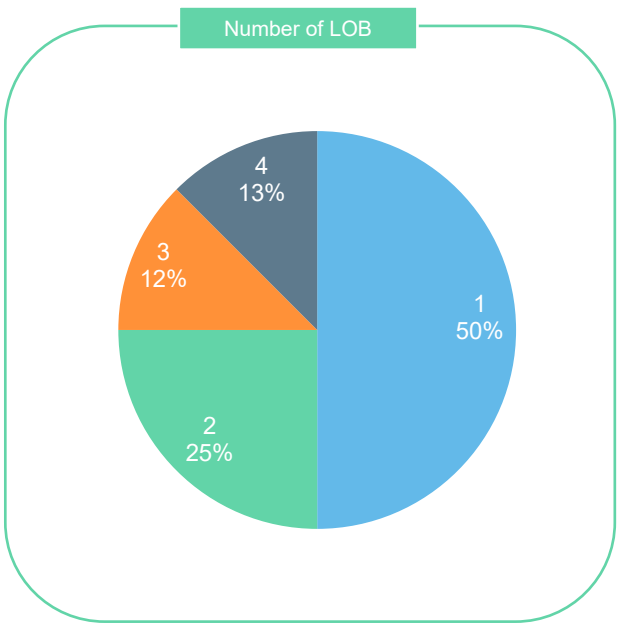


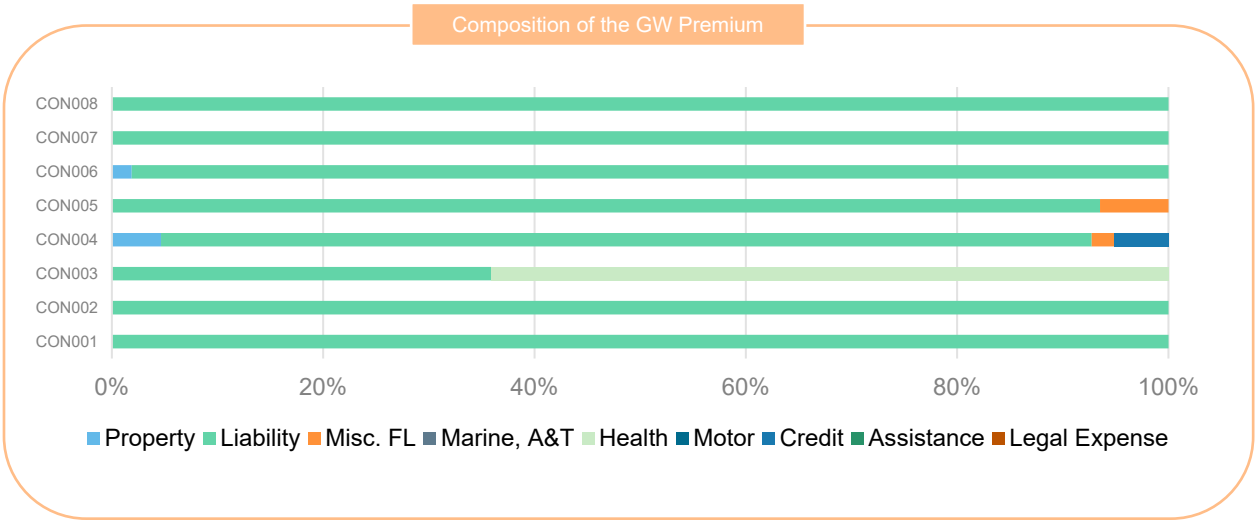
Solvency Position

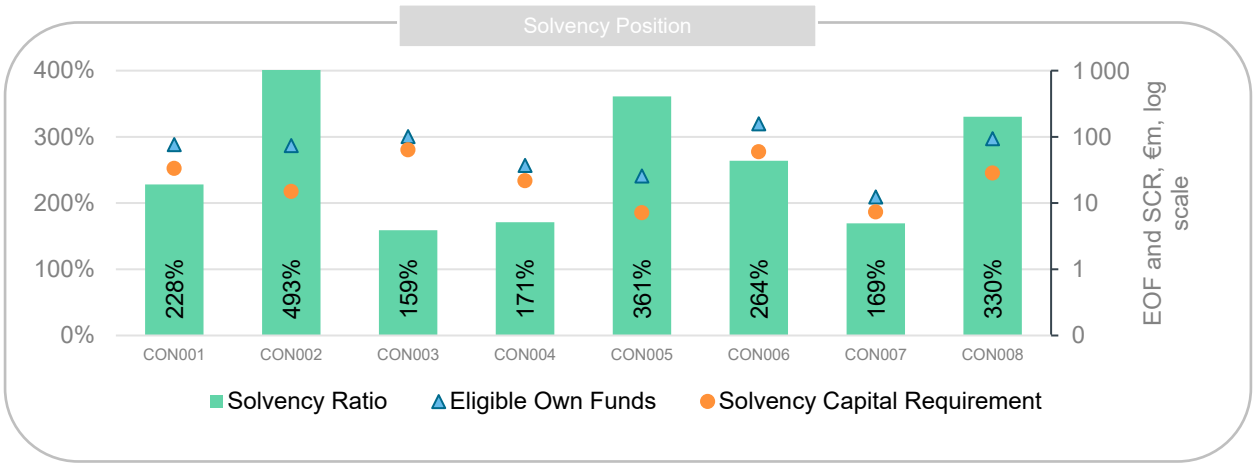


E. CONSULTING/ AUDIT (9 CAPTIVES)



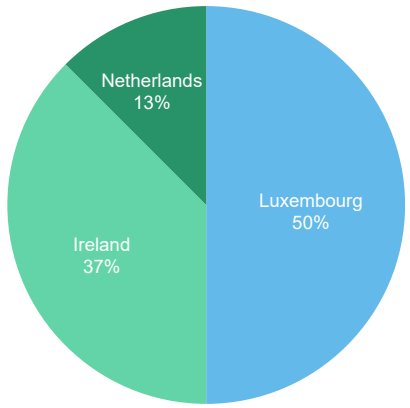




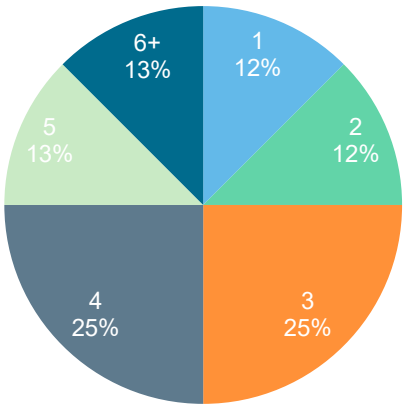


F. CONSUMER / GOODS (8 CAPTIVES)

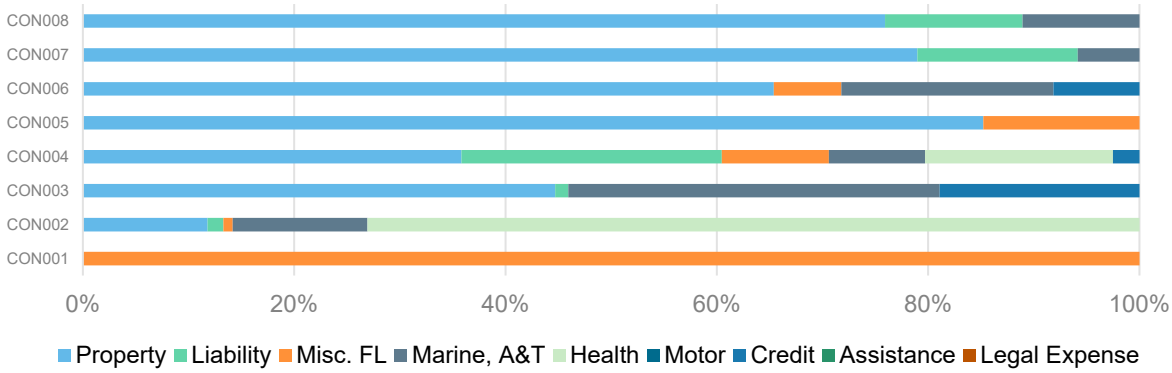
Domicile of the captive



Number of LOB



Composition of the GW Premium

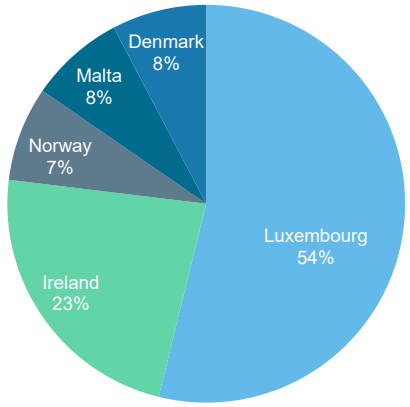


Solvency Position



G. ENERGY / MINING (13 CAPTIVES)

Domicile of the captive



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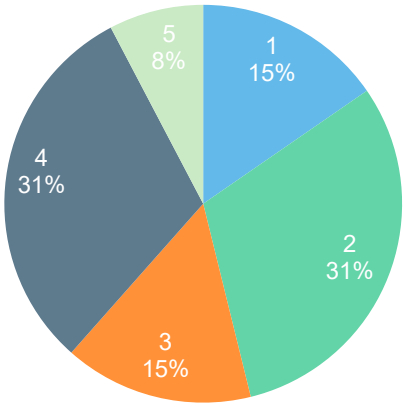
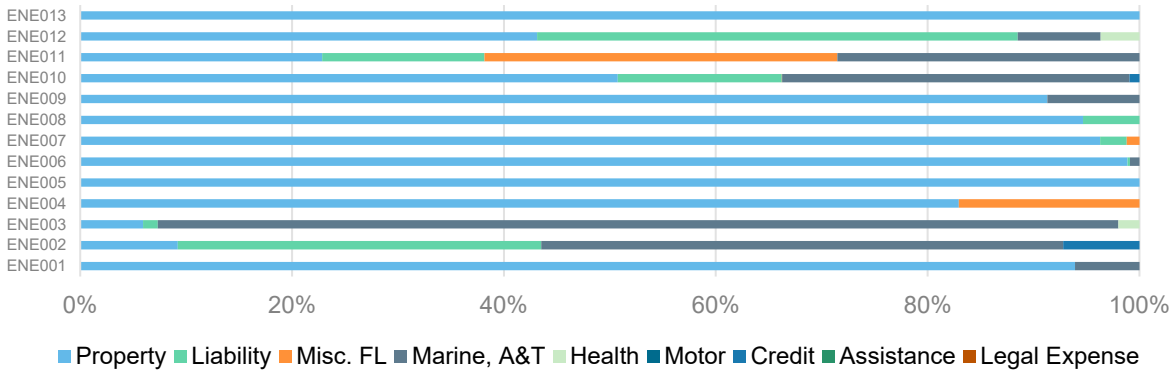
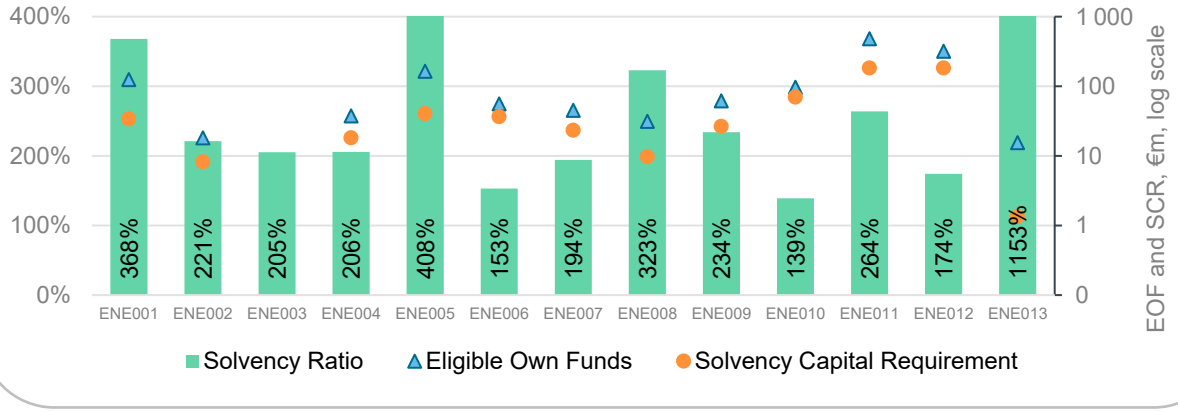


Composition of the GW Premium

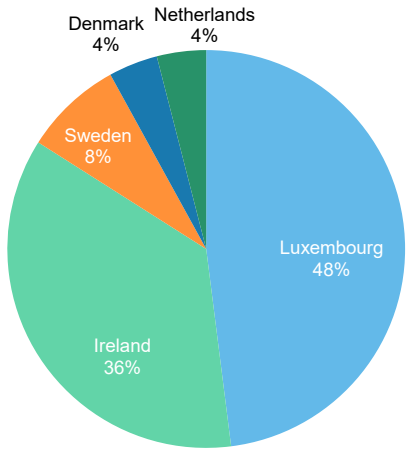


Solvency Position



H. FOOD / AGRI (23 CAPTIVES)

Domicile of the captive



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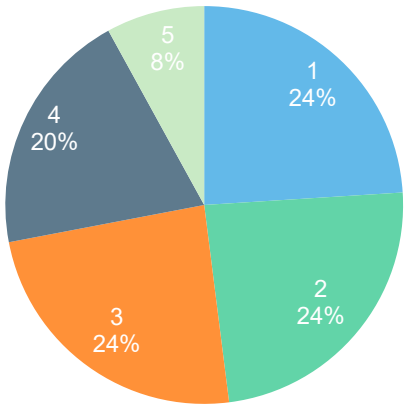
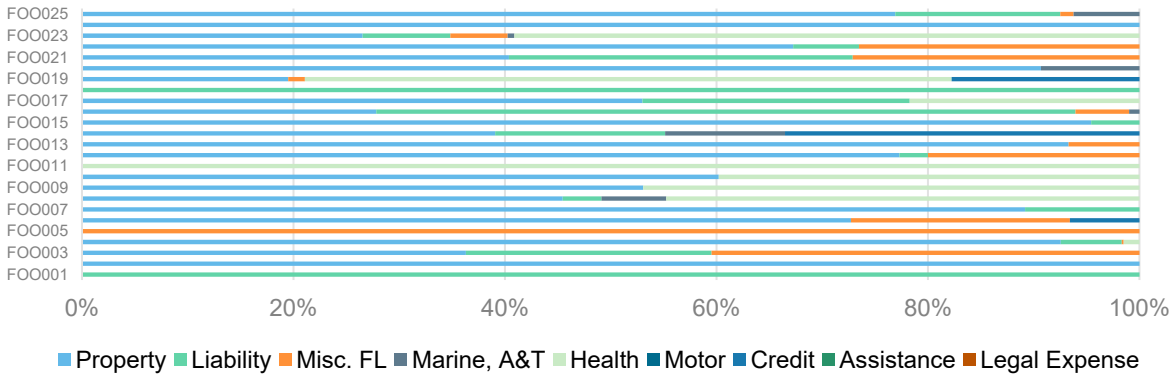
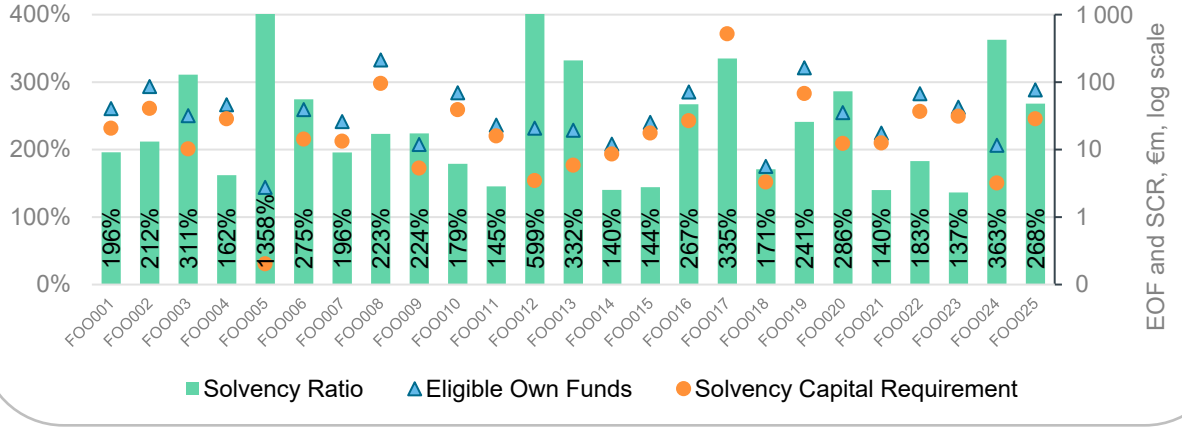


Composition of the GW Premium

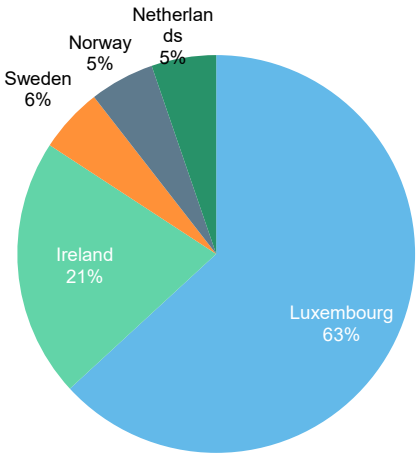


Solvency Position



I. METALS & MATERIALS (19 CAPTIVES)

Domicile of the captive



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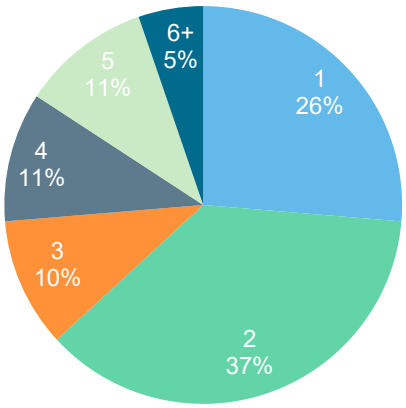
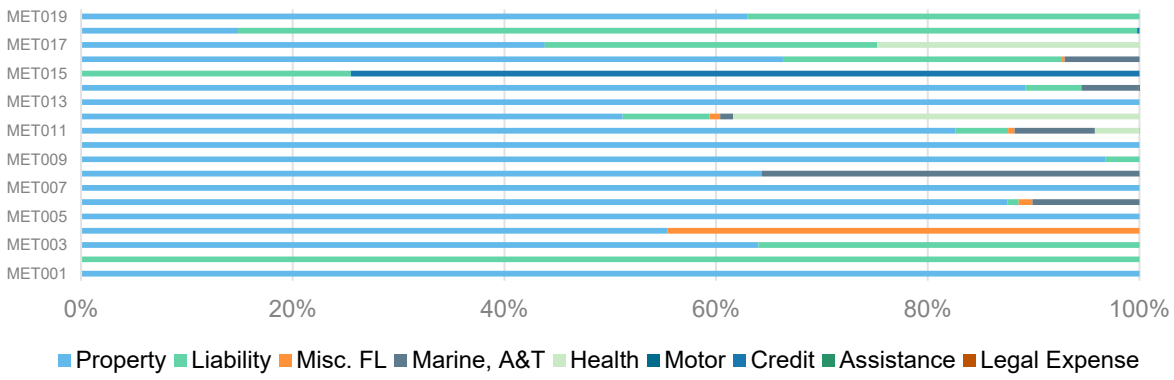
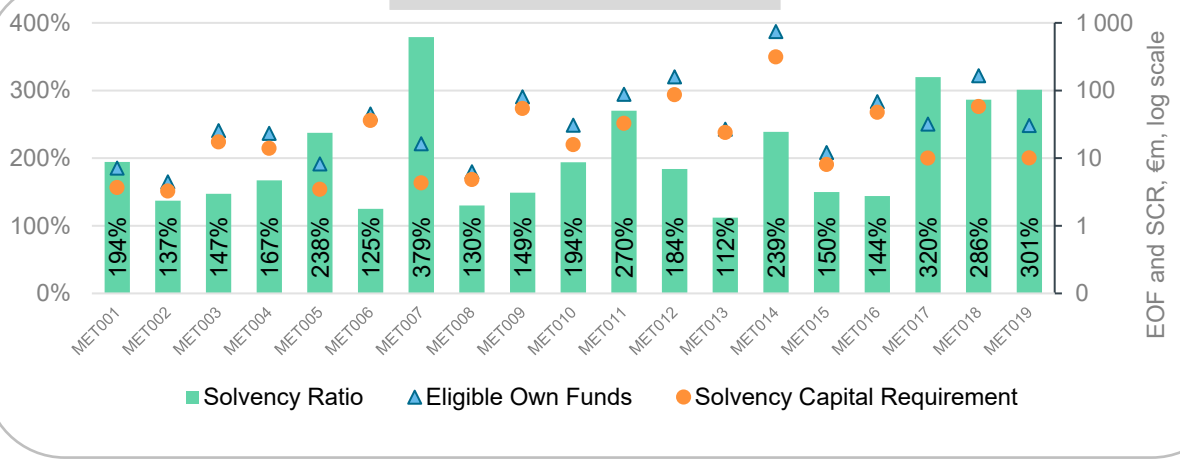


Composition of the GW Premium

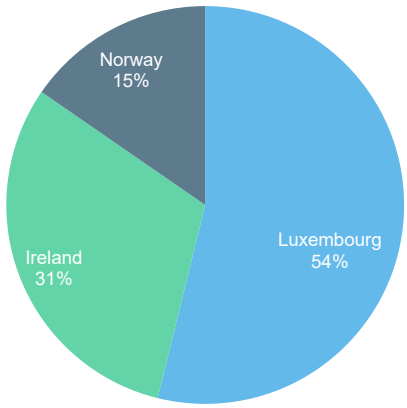


Solvency Position

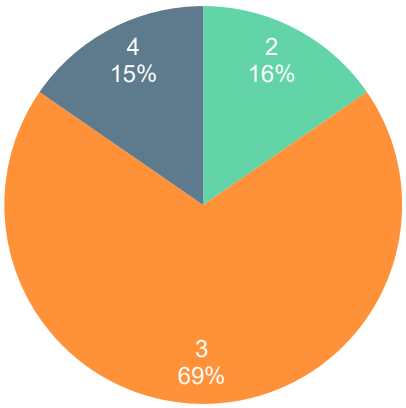


J. POWER /UTILITIES (13 CAPTIVES)

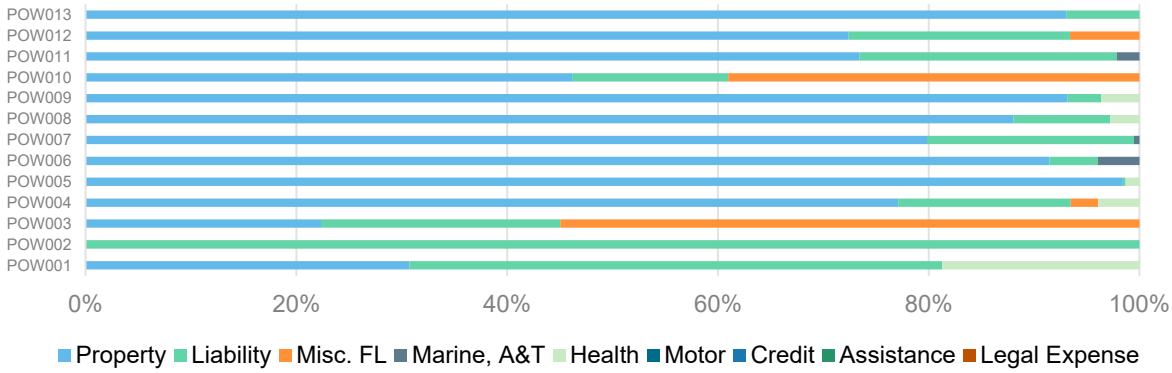
Domicile of the captive



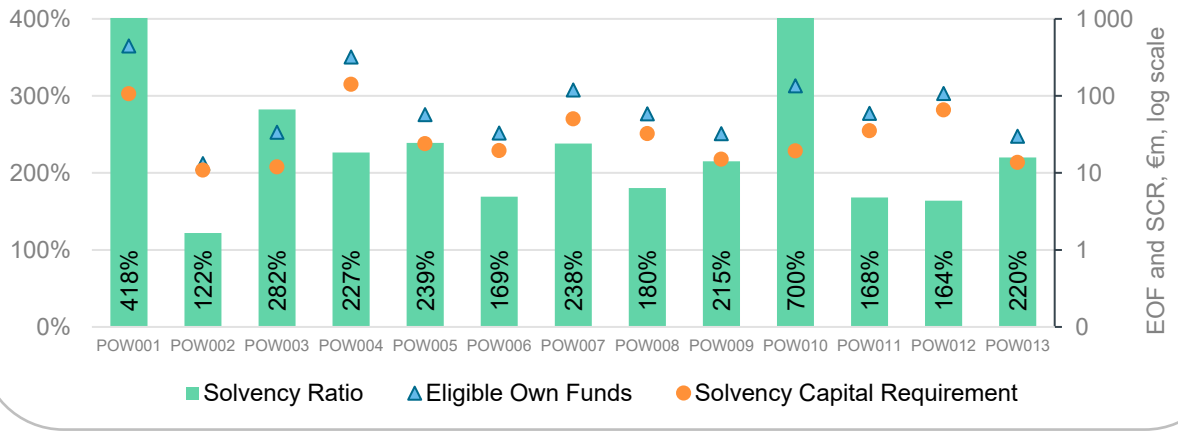
Number of LOB



Composition of the GW Premium

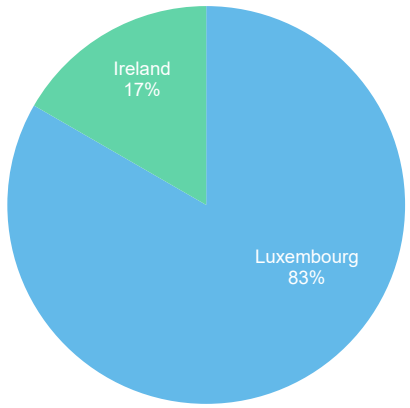


Solvency Position

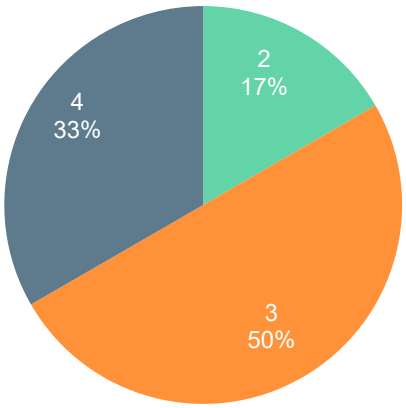


K. RETAILS (6 CAPTIVES)

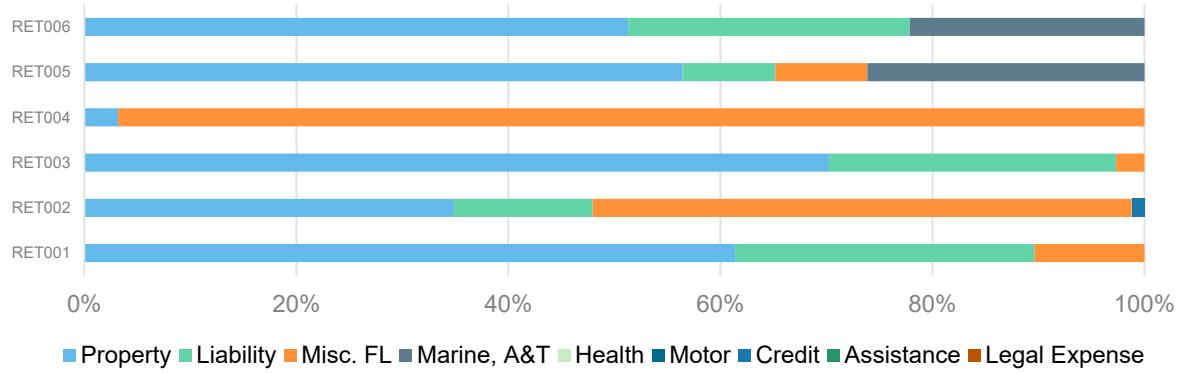
Domicile of the captive



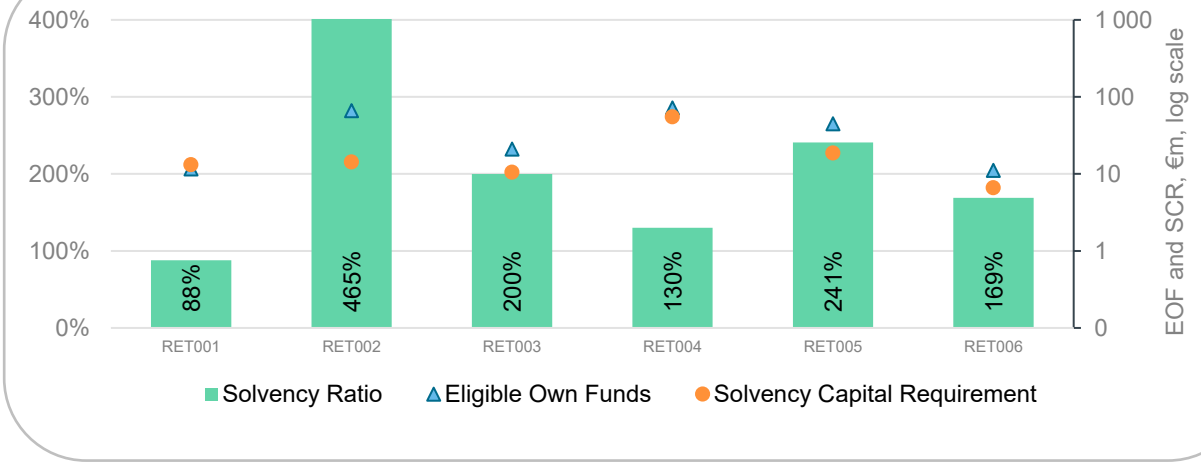
Number of LOB



Composition of the GW Premium

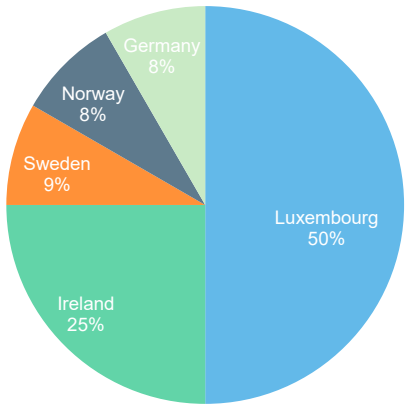


Solvency Position



L. TECH, IT, TELECOM & MEDIA (12 CAPTIVES)

Domicile of the captive



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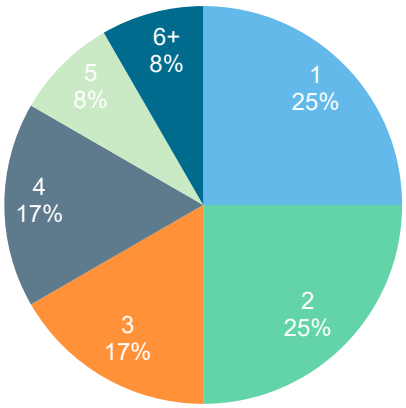
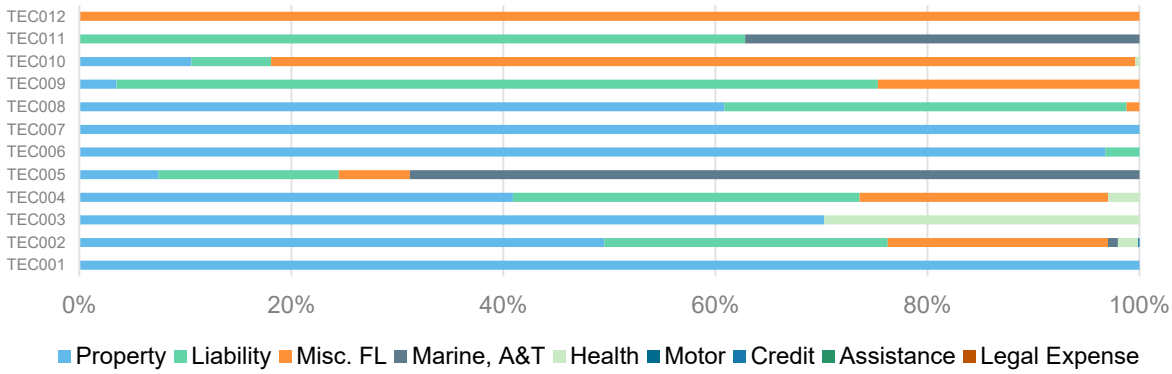
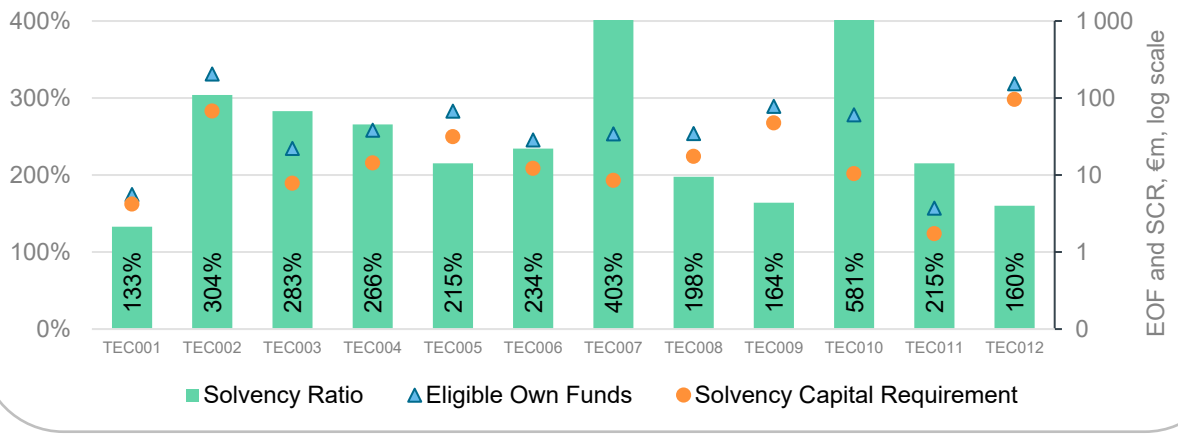


Composition of the GW Premium

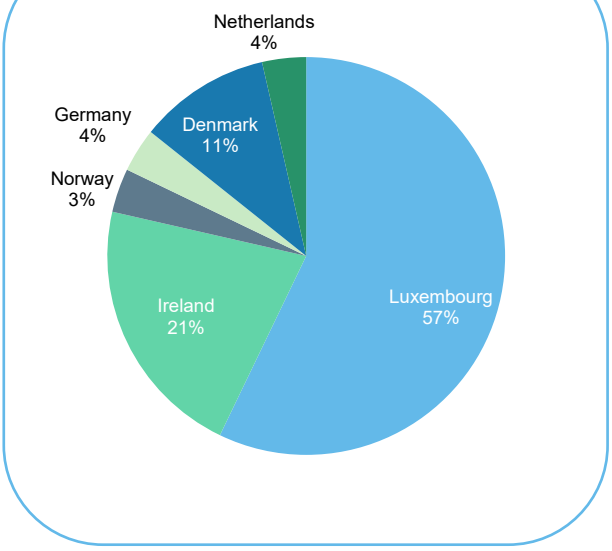


Solvency Position

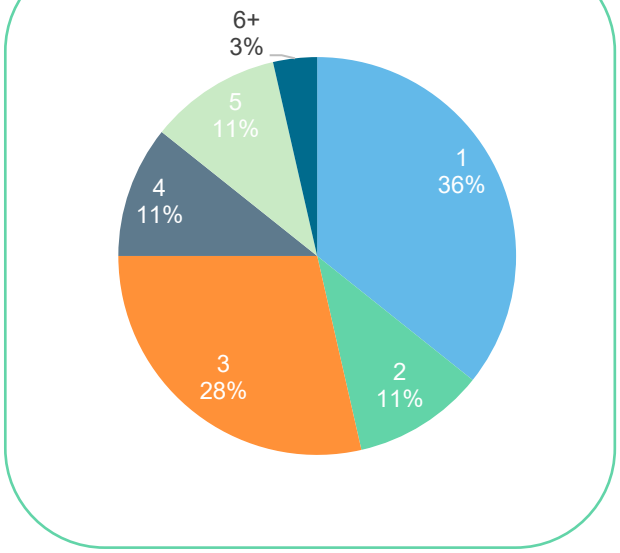


M. TRANSPORTATION / LOGISTICS (28 CAPTIVES)

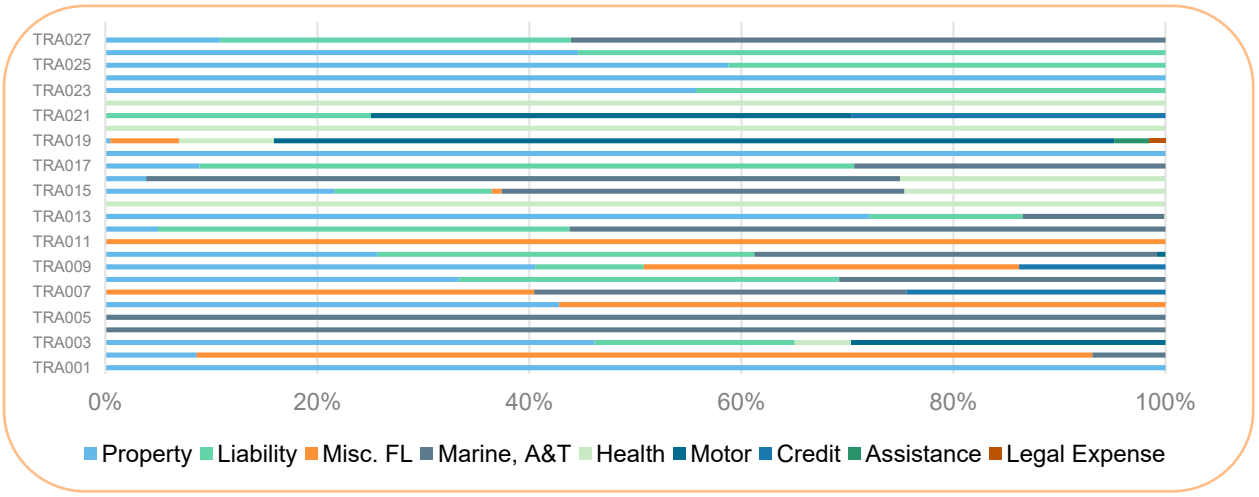
Domicile of the captive

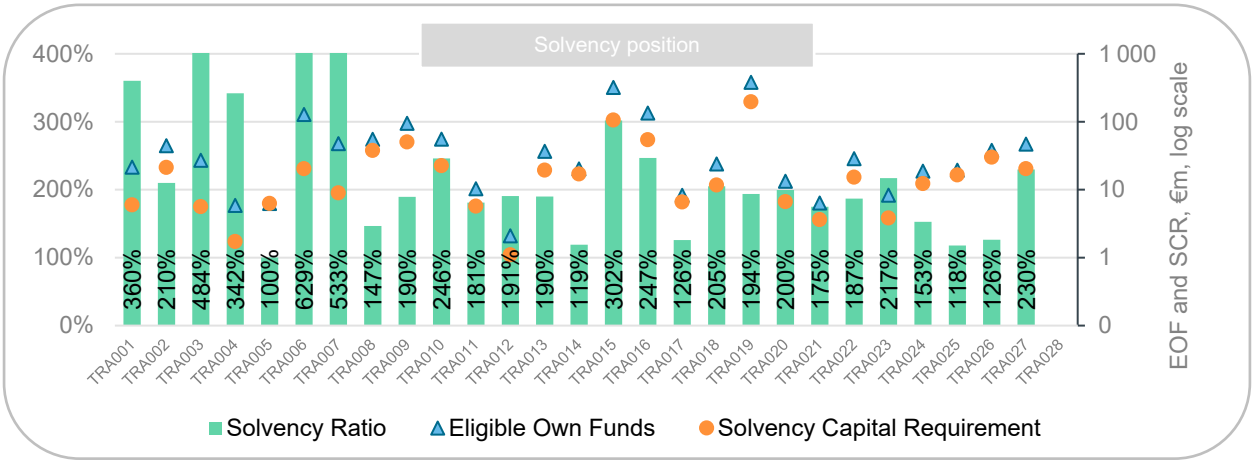


Number of LOB



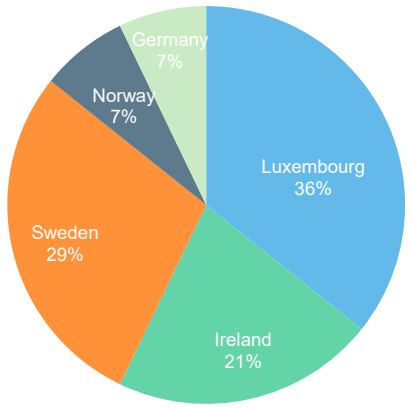
Composition of the GW Premium



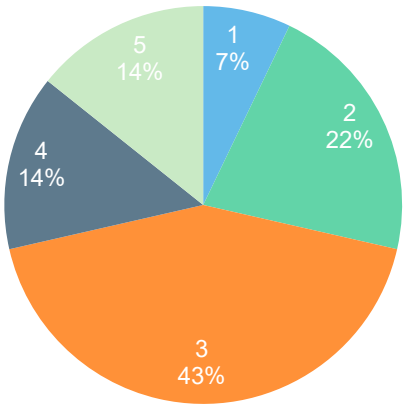


N. OTHER (14 CAPTIVES)

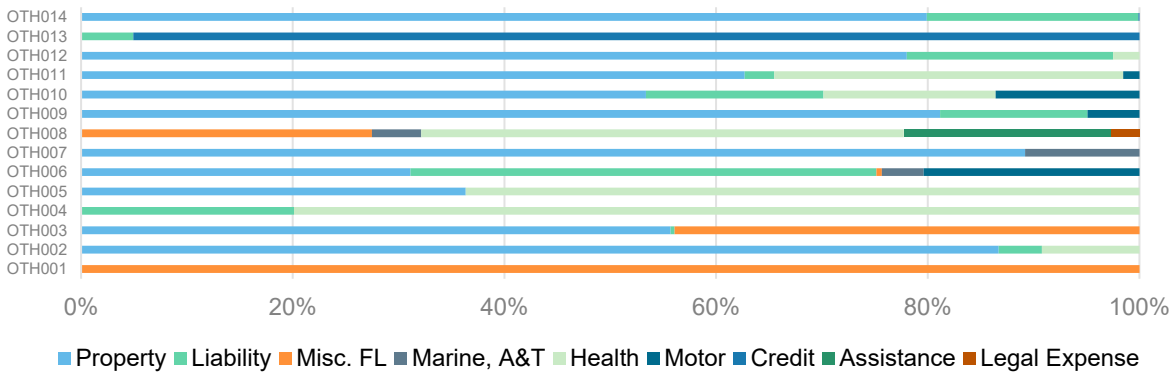
Domicile of the captive



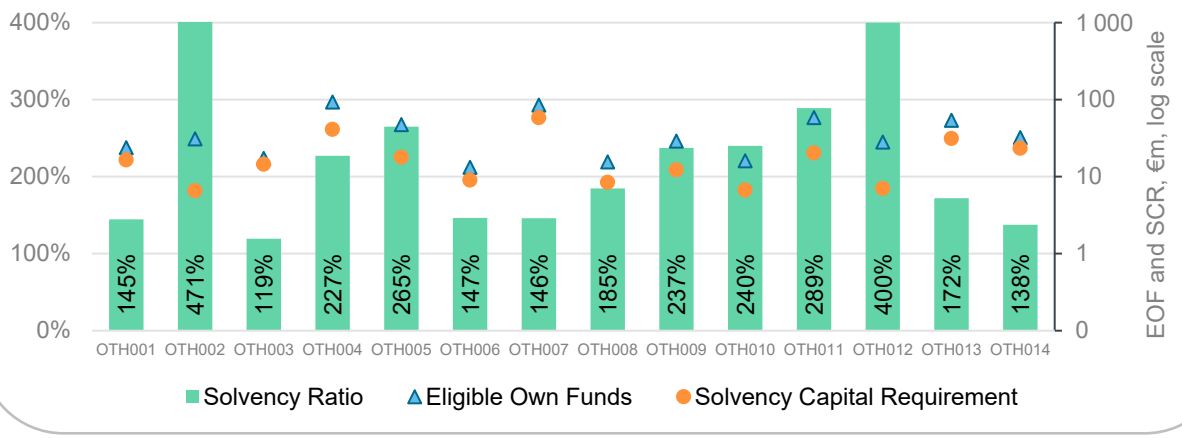
Number of LOB



Composition of the GW Premium



Solvency position





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