

## 2. The data

### Summary

- This chapter contains information on the number and distribution of schemes in *The Purple Book 2020* dataset and the estimated universe of PPF-eligible schemes.
- The main analysis in *The Purple Book 2020* is based on the most recent scheme returns submitted to TPR by 31 March 2020. This covered a dataset of 5,318 DB schemes, covering 9.9 million members<sup>5</sup>. This represents virtually all PPF-eligible schemes and universe liabilities. At the time of writing, complete 2020 information for the remaining schemes was not yet available and so these have been excluded from the sample. A full description of the data used is set out in the appendix.
- It is estimated that the eligible universe of schemes was 5,327 as at 31 March 2020, a reduction from 5,436 as at 31 March 2019. The declining universe reflects schemes winding up, scheme mergers and schemes entering PPF assessment.
- The fact that the dataset accounts for such a large proportion of the universe means that results for the whole universe would only be slightly different from those presented in *The Purple Book 2020*.
- As in previous *Purple Books*, the bulk of the analysis uses funding with pension scheme liability values measured on an s179 basis. This is, broadly speaking, what would have to be paid to an insurance company to take on the payment of PPF levels of compensation.

**Figure 2.1 | Distribution of schemes excluding those in assessment by size of scheme membership as at 31 March 2020**

*The Purple Book 2020* sample includes almost all of the estimated PPF-eligible schemes, including all schemes with 5,000 or more members.

Source: PPF

Number of members	2–99	100–999	1,000–4,999	5,000–9,999	10,000+	Total
Estimated 2020 universe (number of schemes)	1,941	2,318	719	161	188	5,327
<i>The Purple Book 2020</i> dataset (number of schemes)	1,936	2,315	718	161	188	5,318
<i>The Purple Book 2020</i> dataset as a % of 2019 PPF-eligible DB universe	99.7%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%

**Figure 2.2 | Distribution of assets, s179 liabilities and members in *The Purple Book 2020* dataset as at 31 March 2020**

Large schemes with over 5,000 members make up seven per cent of schemes in *The Purple Book 2020* dataset but almost 75 per cent of each of total assets, liabilities and members.

Source: PPF

Note: the component figures may not sum to the total because of rounding.

Number of members	2–99	100–999	1,000–4,999	5,000–9,999	10,000+	Total
Assets (£bn)	17.2	150.7	276.1	208.1	1,048.5	1,700.6
s179 liabilities (£bn)	17.3	161.3	297.7	220.6	1,094.4	1,791.3
Number of members (000's)	84	810	1,634	1,120	6,223	9,872

*The Purple Book 2020* aggregate deficit of £90.7 billion at 31 March 2020 is different from the aggregate deficit of £135.9 billion published in the PPF 7800 Index as at 31 March 2020. This is because *The Purple Book 2020* aggregate deficit is based on new data submitted by schemes in 2020 whereas the PPF 7800 Index as at 31 March 2020 is based on data submitted by schemes in 2019.

<sup>5</sup> One individual can have multiple memberships (for example of different pension schemes). Hence the number of members exceeds the number of individuals.

## 2. The data continued

**Figure 2.3 | *The Purple Book* datasets**

The universe has declined by two per cent over the year, similar to previous years. This reflects schemes winding up, scheme mergers and schemes transferring into the PPF. The total number of members dropped below 10 million for the first time.

Source: PPF

Note: the reason for the increase in *The Purple Book* dataset from 2006 to 2008 is mainly a result of improvements to the design of the scheme return intended to permit better PPF validation procedures.

	Estimated universe	<i>Purple Book</i> dataset	Number of members (m)
2006	7,751	5,772	14.0
2007	7,542	5,892	12.7
2008	7,400	6,898	12.4
2009	7,098	6,885	12.4
2010	6,850	6,596	12.0
2011	6,550	6,432	12.0
2012	6,460	6,316	11.7
2013	6,225	6,150	11.4
2014	6,070	6,057	11.1
2015	5,967	5,945	11.0
2016	5,886	5,794	10.9
2017	5,671	5,588	10.5
2018	5,524	5,450	10.4
2019	5,436	5,422	10.1
2020	5,327	5,318	9.9