

02

The data

An overview of the dataset used in this edition of *The Purple Book*.

Summary

- This chapter contains information on the number and distribution of schemes in *The Purple Book 2021* dataset and the estimated universe of PPF-eligible schemes.
- The main analysis in *The Purple Book 2021* is based on the most recent scheme returns submitted to TPR by 31 March 2021. This covered a dataset of 5,215 DB schemes, covering 9.7 million members⁴. This represents virtually all PPF-eligible schemes and universe liabilities. At the time of writing, complete 2021 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 5,220 as at 31 March 2021, a reduction from 5,327 as at 31 March 2020. 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 2021*.
- As in previous editions of *The Purple Book*, 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.

⁴ One individual can have multiple memberships (for example, of different pension schemes). Hence the number of members exceeds the number of individuals.

Figure 2.1 | Distribution of schemes excluding those in assessment by size of scheme membership as at 31 March 2021

The *Purple Book 2021* sample covers almost all of the estimated PPF-eligible schemes, with 99.9 per cent of all PPF-eligible schemes included.

Number of members	2-99	100-999	1,000-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000+	Total
Estimated 2021 universe (number of schemes)	1,874	2,280	720	160	186	5,220
<i>The Purple Book 2021</i> dataset (number of schemes)	1,873	2,280	717	159	186	5,215
<i>The Purple Book 2021</i> dataset as a % of 2021 PPF-eligible DB universe	99.9%	100.0%	99.6%	99.4%	100.0%	99.9%

Source: PPF

Figure 2.2 | Distribution of assets, s179 liabilities and members in *The Purple Book 2021* dataset as at 31 March

Large schemes with more than 5,000 members make up seven per cent of schemes in *The Purple Book 2021* dataset but almost 75 per cent of each of total assets, liabilities and members.

Number of members	2-99	100-999	1,000-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000+	Total
Assets (£bn)	16.9	152.2	280.8	211.2	1,059.6	1,720.7
s179 liabilities (£bn)	15.4	149.9	279.9	207.8	1,020.9	1,673.8
Number of members (000's)	82	798	1,631	1,110	6,118	9,739

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

Source: PPF

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.

	Estimated universe	<i>The 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
2021	5,220	5,215	9.7

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.

Source: PPF