GOLD
by RiskBusiness

THE GLOBAL OPERATIONAL LOSS DATABASE (GOLD) is the oldest loss data consortium, having been established by the then British Bankers Association (BBA) in 2000. In 2010, BBA launched GOLD MKII, substantially enriching the GOLD offering and delivering the GOLD services through the RiskBusiness Loss Data Consortium Service. The BBA merged with other UK trade bodies in 2017 to form UK Finance (www.ukfinance.org.uk). Since 2010, prior to fully outsourcing the running of GOLD to RiskBusiness at the beginning of 2022, first the BBA and subsequently UK Finance partnered with RiskBusiness in providing the most detailed consortium loss data to GOLD members.

Unlike other consortia, GOLD is not primarily focussed on providing loss events for statistical modelling purposes; the GOLD data includes information for each event on what happened, why it happened, in which business activity did it happen, what controls failed, what impact did the event have and how was the event classified.

GOLD data can be used to benchmark a firm's own loss experience, allowing the firm to identify areas of difference for further investigation – is the firm's loss experience different due to a lack of reported events? is the loss experience different due to inadequate internal controls? Comparability is further facilitated by allowing the automated creation of loss profiles – mapping risk categories against process types, then overlaying actual losses onto the profile grid – of both internal losses and the entire or filtered sub-sets of the consortium dataset, then undertaking comparative assessments of the loss profiles.

When considering new products, new business activity or new geographic locations, the GOLD data can be used to gain an understanding of industry loss experience for the area under consideration before actual engagement.

GOLD not only provides access to the entire database across all participants, it also consists of a series of sub-data pools for homogeneous sub-groups of participants. These sub-pools can be automatically applied as filters when analysing the GOLD data or can be disregarded when broader assessments of loss experience is required.

GOLD data is obtained from current GOLD participants submitting their recent loss experiences to the consortium, where the data is anonymised, then quality checked and augmented where appropriate, prior to publication back to the GOLD participants. A participant may also update previously submitted loss events where knowledge of and information on such events has evolved since first submission. Where a participant uses a custom classification taxonomy, facility is provided for that participant to map their taxonomy to the GOLD taxonomy; GOLD will then convert that participant's loss events from their internal taxonomy to the GOLD taxonomy upon import and allows the participant to view or work with the entire GOLD data set in either the GOLD or their own internal taxonomy.

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GOLD participants have access to their own internal loss events, the anonymised GOLD consortium loss events and in excess of 50,000 public loss events to undertake comprehensive analysis and assessment

In addition to actual participant data, GOLD participants also have access to RiskBusiness' Newsflash Library, a continuously growing library of publicly known loss events harvested from public sources and then classified using similar taxonomy elements to the GOLD Taxonomy. This implies that GOLD participants have access to their own internal loss events, the anonymised GOLD consortium loss events and the RiskBusiness public loss events to undertake comprehensive analysis and assessment. The Newsflash Library also provides a source of emerging exposure information which can be used to augment the firm's own risk identification and assessment processes.

GOLD participants also gain access to the Taxonomy Library by RiskBusiness, which provides multiple examples of different classification element libraries, such as control types, process types, risk categories, causal types and impact types, as well as to the KRI Library by RiskBusiness (KRIeX.org), an online repository of over 2,500 detailed specifications of key risk indicators and key control indicators. The KRI Library by RiskBusiness includes standard industry risk profiles, reflecting industry views on in which process types the various risk categories are most likely to occur, on which the key risk indicators, the entire loss data consortium data set and the newsflashes can be observed.

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