

About Us

Founded in 1899, AM Best is the world's largest credit rating agency specializing in the insurance industry and insurance-linked securities. Best's Credit Ratings are an assessment of an insurer's financial strength, creditworthiness and their ability to honor obligations to policyholders.

AM Best's insurance data, market intelligence, and analytical resources provide a critical perspective to help insurers, financial professionals and consumers make informed decisions. Our analysts' diverse financial, operational, claims, underwriting and actuarial backgrounds equip them to deliver insight that helps support and inform the insurance industry.

We provide 3,600 ratings on companies of all sizes in more than 100 countries, including over 200 alternative risk transfer entities and 450 mutual companies. Headquartered in the United States, the company has regional offices in London, Amsterdam, Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Mexico City.

Market Coverage

Insurance-related companies operating in various markets, including:

- Property/casualty (non-life) insurers
- Life insurers and annuity writers
- Health insurers
- Reinsurers
- Mutual insurers and Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs
- Takaful, Retakaful and co-operative insurers
- Lloyd's and its syndicates
- New company formations ("start-ups")
- Alternative risk transfer (ART) vehicles (including captives, pools and risk-retention groups)
- Catastrophe bond issuers and other Insurance-Linked Securitizations (ILS)

Competitive Strengths

- Only international rating agency dedicated to the insurance industry
- World's leading provider of insurer Financial Strength Ratings (FSRs) by company coverage
- Foremost rating coverage of the global reinsurance segment
- Leading position in international reinsurance hubs—including comprehensive coverage of Lloyd's/London market, Bermuda, Zurich and Singapore
- Leading rating agency for (re)insurance in the emerging markets of MENA, South and Central Asia
- Leading rating agency for ART and captives coverage
- Key rating agency used by global broker security teams
- Data and research covering 16,000 (re)insurance companies worldwide
- Largest and most comprehensive insurance database providing unique insights by segment and line of business
- Published rating methodology on all key insurance industry segments

Research and News

- Publishers of frequent specialised reports on global insurance industry issues, including sector, company and geographic regional analysis. Extensive global insurance news delivery and resources

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Best's Credit Ratings: The Global Symbol of Financial Strength

A rating by AM Best is based on a comprehensive evaluation of an insurance company's balance sheet strength, operating performance, business profile and enterprise risk management. AM Best also regularly publishes Impairment Studies, which evaluate rating performance over time.

Best's Credit Rating Scale

Translation of Issuer Credit Ratings to Financial Strength Ratings

Long-Term ICR	FSR
aaa, aa+	A++
aa, aa-	A+
a+, a	A
a-	A-
bbb+, bbb	B++
bbb-	B+
bb+, bb	B
bb-	B-
b+, b	C++
b-	C+
ccc+, ccc	C
ccc-, cc	C-
c	D

Note: D is used for non-insurers and securities.

The rating symbols A++, A+, A, A-, B++, B+ are registered certification marks of A.M. Best Rating Services, Inc.

AM Best Credit Rating Definitions

- **Best's Issuer Credit Rating (ICR):** An independent opinion of an entity's ability to meet its ongoing financial obligations, issued on either a long- or short-term basis
- **Best's Financial Strength Rating (FSR):** An independent opinion of an insurer's financial strength and ability to meet its ongoing insurance policy and contract obligations
- **Best's Issue Credit Rating (IR):** An independent opinion of credit quality assigned to issues that gauges the ability to meet the terms of the obligation, issued on a long- or short-term basis
- **Best's National Scale Rating (NSR):** A relative measure of creditworthiness in a specific local jurisdiction that is issued on a long-term basis and derived exclusively by mapping the NSR from a corresponding global Issuer Credit Rating (ICR) using a transition chart



BestMark for Rated Insurers

The BestMark provides a recognisable visual symbol of an insurer's financial strength.

The value of a Best's Credit Rating is enhanced by market penetration. Best's Credit Ratings reach:

Thousands of insurance industry professionals via AM Best's publications (*BestWeek*[®], *Best's Review*[®], *BestDay*[®], *BestWire*[®] and *Best's Journal*[®]).

Thousands of financial professionals worldwide via news vendors such as Reuters, Dow Jones and NewsEdge.

More than 1,160,000 registered professionals who have online access to Best's Credit Ratings.

Best's Credit Ratings and related financial information provide powerful tools for insurance decision making and market research for insurance agents, brokers, risk managers, bankers, insurance executives, policyholders and consumers.

Contact us or visit www.ambest.com

Corporate Offices

Global Headquarters	London 8th Floor, 12 Arthur Street, London, EC4R 9AB, U.K. Phone: +44 20 7626 6264	Mexico City Paseo de la Reforma 412, Piso 23, Col. Juárez, Alcadía Cuauhtémoc México, D.F. 06600 Phone: +52 55 1102 2720	Hong Kong Suite 4004, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road Wanchai, Hong Kong Phone: +852 2827 3400
	Oldwick 1 Ambest Road, Oldwick, NJ 08858, U.S. Phone: +1 908 439 2200	Amsterdam 3rd Floor, NoMA House, Gustav Mahlerlaan 1212 1081 LA Amsterdam, Netherlands Phone: +31 20 308 5420	Dubai* Office 102, Tower 2, Currency House, DIFC PO Box 506617, Dubai, UAE Phone: +971 4375 2780 <small>*Regulated by the DFSA as a Representative Office</small>

A Best's Credit Rating (BCR) is a forward-looking, independent opinion regarding an insurer's, issuer's or financial obligation's relative creditworthiness. For limitations and disclosures regarding Best's Credit Ratings, please visit www.ambest.com/ratings/notice.asp.

