

More than a promise . . .



Ohio Mutual Insurance Group

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Ohio Mutual Insurance Group Named to Ward's 50[®] For Fourth Consecutive Year

INDEPENDENTLY RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF NATION'S TOP 50 INSURERS

BUCYRUS, OH – For the fourth consecutive year, Ohio Mutual Insurance Group has been recognized among the nation's top 50 insurers, according to Ward Group, one of the industry's most respected organizations. The honor was announced today during an on-line press conference hosted by the Cincinnati-based Ward Group.

Ward Group has conducted a detailed financial analysis of more than 3,000 property & casualty insurers domiciled in the United States for each of the past 22 years, annually identifying the industry's top performers. The top 50 companies are named to the "Ward's 50[®] Top Performers" list for the year and awarded the "Ward's 50[®] Seal."

"By earning this prestigious designation for a fourth consecutive year, Ohio Mutual finds itself in elite company," said Ohio Mutual President and CEO Jim Kennedy. "Only a handful of companies in our industry make this list each year, and fewer still have done so for each of the past four years. This affirmation of the financial strength of our organization reflects the unified efforts of our associates, agents, and business partners to create a financially impregnable organization committed to and capable of keeping every promise we make."

Today's recognition from Ward Group aligns with the analysis of A.M. Best Co., which last month affirmed the company's financial strength rating of "A" for the 20th consecutive year.

Each company named to the Ward's 50[®] has excelled at balancing safety, consistency, and superior financial performance over the past five years, and is then benchmarked against the industry overall. Ward Group publishes a comparative analysis each year in Ward's Results[®], an industry financial reference series, which is available from Ward Group at www.wardinc.com.

"Excellent returns and strong operating results helped make Ohio Mutual a top-performing insurance organization. Ohio Mutual has demonstrated the ability to maintain outstanding results over the long term," said Jeff Rieder, Partner and Head of Ward Group.



(MORE)

Passionate

Innovative

Partnership



Ohio Mutual Insurance Group, founded in 1901 and based in Bucyrus, OH, partners with nearly 400 independent agencies to distribute quality property and casualty insurance products throughout Ohio, Indiana, and five states in New England. Ohio Mutual has maintained a rating of “A / Stable” from A.M. Best Co. for 20 consecutive years, and in 2009 was named Company of the Year by the nation’s largest association of independent insurance agents. Additional company information is available at www.omig.com.

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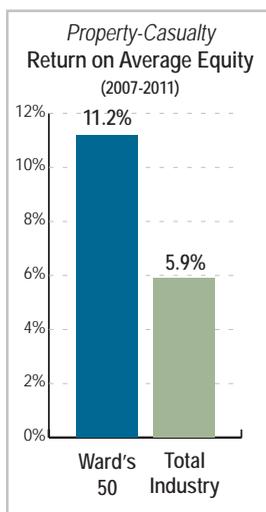
Editor’s Note: Included as a separate document is a full list of the property and casualty insurance companies named to the 2012 Ward’s 50[®] and a summary of Ward Group’s comparison of the list members to the industry as a whole (provided by Ward Group).

2012 Ward's 50 Top Performing P&C Insurers



Annually, Ward Group analyzes the financial performance of over 3,000 property-casualty insurance companies domiciled in the United States and identifies the top performers in each segment. This group is called the Ward's 50 for the year. Each Ward's 50 company has passed all safety and consistency screens and achieved superior performance over the five years analyzed. This is the 22nd year Ward Group has conducted the analysis. The Ward's 50 property-casualty group of insurance companies produced an 11.2% statutory return on average equity from 2007 to 2011 compared to 5.9% for the property-casualty industry overall.

"Financial returns for insurers declined in 2011 due to many factors including severe catastrophes, competitive pricing, low interest rates, high unemployment and sluggish economic growth," explains Jeff Rieder, Partner and Head of Ward Group. "Although results declined in nearly every sector of the industry, policyholder surplus and overall financial stability for the industry remains very strong. Companies are investing in new systems, improving internal processes and focusing on developing new capabilities to meet customer demands. In selecting the Ward's 50, we identify companies that pass financial stability requirements and measure their ability to grow while maintaining strong capital positions and underwriting results."



Safety and Consistency

Insurance companies are evaluated and must pass minimum thresholds to be considered for the Ward's 50 designation. Each company must pass primary safety and consistency tests, including:

- Surplus and premiums of at least \$50 million for each of the 5 years analyzed

- Net income in at least 4 of the last 5 years
- Compound annual growth in premiums between -10% and +40%

Performance Measurements

Companies that pass the safety and consistency tests are measured and scored on the following elements:

- Five Year Avg. Return on Avg. Equity
- Five Year Avg. Return on Avg. Assets
- Five Year Avg. Return on Total Revenue
- Five Year Growth in Revenue
- Five Year Improvement in Surplus to Written Premium
- Five Year Avg. Combined Ratio

Key Performance Benchmarks

An important objective of the Ward's 50 is to compare their performance as a group with the rest of the industry. In addition

to achieving greater levels of income returns, the Ward's 50 benchmarks also outperformed in other key performance benchmarks. The Ward's 50 property-casualty group compared 10.0 points lower for the five year combined ratio (92.8% compared to 102.8%) and grew policyholder surplus by 26.4% compared to 8.6% for the industry since 2007. Net premiums written for the Ward's 50 property-casualty group grew 11.8% compared to the industry's 2.1% growth.

In addition to achieving higher financial returns, the Ward's 50 benchmark continues to achieve lower expense ratios. "The expense ratio has been declining slowly for insurers but still remains higher than historical levels. Our research finds the Ward's 50 benchmarks gain significant advantages by effectively managing expenses," says Mr. Rieder. In 2011, expenses relative to revenue were 7.3% lower for the Ward's 50 property-casualty group of companies.

2012 Ward's 50® Companies

Property-Casualty

(listed alphabetically)

ACE American Insurance Company
 ACUIITY
 Alaska National Insurance Company
 Alleghany Group
 American Financial Group
 Ameriprise Financial
 AMERISAFE
 Assurant Group
 Auto Club Enterprises Insurance Group
 Bear River Mutual Insurance Company
 Capital Insurance Group
 Chubb Group
 Coverys
 CSE Insurance Group
 The Doctors Company
 Eastern Alliance Insurance Group
 Erie Insurance Group
 Federated Mutual Group
 First Insurance Company of Hawaii, LTD
 Franklin Mutual Insurance Group
 GEICO*
 Goodville Mutual Casualty Company
 GUARD Insurance Group
 GuideOne Insurance Company
 HCC Insurance Holdings Group
 Infinity P&C Insurance Group
 Island Insurance Companies
 Jewelers Mutual Insurance Company
 Lackawanna Casualty Company
 Lancer Insurance Company
 Markel Corporation Group
 The Main Street America Group
 Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insur. Co.
 Munich Reinsurance America, Inc
 North Star Mutual Insurance Company
 Ohio Mutual Insurance Group
 Pacific Specialty Insurance Company
 Philadelphia Insurance Companies
 ProAssurance
 Progressive Insurance Group
 RLI Insurance Company*
 Rural Mutual Insurance Company
 Safety Insurance Group
 Star Insurance Company
 Travelers Insurance Group
 USAA Group*
 Vermont Mutual Insurance Company
 W.R. Berkley Corporation
 Western Mutual Insurance Group
 Western National Insurance Group
 *22-year recipient (1991-2012)

An important objective of the Ward's 50 is to compare their performance as a group with the rest of the industry. Comparisons based on benchmarks set by the Ward's 50 group of companies are available for individual companies and the total industry. Visit www.wardinc.com for more information.