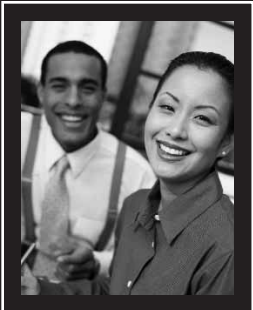


Financial Highlights

RELIANCE STANDARD



Financial Strength Ratings: What do they mean?

Financial strength ratings rate an insurer's overall financial strength and ability to pay claims and obligations. According to A.M. Best, the nation's oldest ratings agency, the financial strength rating, "represents the current and independent opinion of a company's financial strength and its ability to meet obligations to policyholders."

Similarly, Standard & Poor's states its rating, "is a current opinion of the financial security characteristics of an insurance organization with respect to its ability to pay under its insurance policies and contracts within their terms."

Financial strength ratings may take into account many aspects of fiscal health, including:

- Debt
- Profitability
- Capitalization
- Creditworthiness
- Market position
- Business policies and practices'
- Earnings
- Growth
- Liquidity
- Investments
- Market trends
- Management team

How the agencies rate Reliance Standard

Organization	Rating/Comments
A.M. Best	A (Excellent)

- Excellent is assigned to companies that have an excellent ability to meet their ongoing obligations to policyholders
- Solid position within the small to midsize employee-benefits marketplace
- Profitable operating performance
- Solid financial capabilities and improved investment profile of its parent company
- Strong overall liquidity
- Able to maintain positive trends while the industry has been challenged by a combination of the competitive nature of the business, a slow job market and the low interest rate environment

A.M. Best	A (affirmed 01/08)
Fitch	A (affirmed 02/08)
Standard & Poor's	A (affirmed 03/07)
Moody's	A3 (affirmed 08/07)

Source: The ratings agencies

Organization	Rating/Comments
Fitch	A (Strong)

- A/Strong companies are viewed as possessing strong capacity to meet policyholder and contract obligations. Risk factors are moderate, and the impact of any adverse business and economic factors is expected to be small.
- Profitability is very good
- Return on surplus consistently achieves strong levels in the low double-digit range.
- Return on average assets is viewed as equally strong

Standard & Poor's	A (Strong)
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- An insurer rated "A" has STRONG financial security characteristics, but is somewhat more likely to be affected by adverse business conditions than are insurers with higher ratings.
- Highly likely to have the ability to meet financial commitments.
- Rating is a current opinion of financial security characteristics with respect to an insurer's ability to pay under its insurance policies and contracts in accordance with their terms.

Moody's	A3 (Stable)
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- Reflects "the established position of... Reliance Standard in the group employee benefits market."
- Rating is an opinion of the ability of insurance companies to repay punctually senior policyholder claims and obligations.

Now in its centennial year, Reliance Standard is a top-ranked group benefits carrier with a legacy of providing service and value to employers of all sizes. Core products include group disability, group term life, accident insurance and total absence management. Innovative programs include limited-medical coverage for temporary and hourly employees; and a unique, web-based FMLA administration tool for companies with 50 or more employees.