

BEST'S FINANCIAL STRENGTH RATING GUIDE – (FSR)

A Best's Financial Strength Rating (FSR) is an independent opinion of an insurer's financial strength and ability to meet its ongoing insurance policy and contract obligations. An FSR is not assigned to specific insurance policies or contracts and does not address any other risk, including, but not limited to, an insurer's claims-payment policies or procedures; the ability of the insurer to dispute or deny claims payment on grounds of misrepresentation or fraud; or any specific liability contractually borne by the policy or contract holder. An FSR is not a recommendation to purchase, hold or terminate any insurance policy, contract or any other financial obligation issued by an insurer, nor does it address the suitability of any particular policy or contract for a specific purpose or purchaser. In addition, an FSR may be displayed with a rating identifier, modifier or affiliation code that denotes a unique aspect of the opinion.

Best's Financial Strength Rating (FSR) Scale

Rating Categories	Rating Symbols	Rating Notches*	Category Definitions
Superior	A+	A++	Assigned to insurance companies that have, in our opinion, a superior ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations.
Excellent	A	A-	Assigned to insurance companies that have, in our opinion, an excellent ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations.
Good	B+	B++	Assigned to insurance companies that have, in our opinion, a good ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations.
Fair	B	B-	Assigned to insurance companies that have, in our opinion, a fair ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations. Financial strength is vulnerable to adverse changes in underwriting and economic conditions.
Marginal	C+	C++	Assigned to insurance companies that have, in our opinion, a marginal ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations. Financial strength is vulnerable to adverse changes in underwriting and economic conditions.
Weak	C	C-	Assigned to insurance companies that have, in our opinion, a weak ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations. Financial strength is very vulnerable to adverse changes in underwriting and economic conditions.
Poor	D	-	Assigned to insurance companies that have, in our opinion, a poor ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations. Financial strength is extremely vulnerable to adverse changes in underwriting and economic conditions.

* Each Best's Financial Strength Rating Category from "A+" to "C" includes a Rating Notch to reflect a gradation of financial strength within the category. A Rating Notch is expressed with either a second plus "+" or a minus "-".

FSR Non-Rating Designations

Designation Symbols	Designation Definitions
E	Status assigned to insurance companies that are publicly placed under a significant form of regulatory supervision, control or restraint - including cease and desist orders, conservatorship or rehabilitation, but not liquidation - that prevents conduct of normal ongoing insurance operations; an impaired insurer.
F	Status assigned to insurance companies that are publicly placed in liquidation by a court of law or by a forced liquidation; an impaired insurer.
S	Status assigned to rated insurance companies to suspend the outstanding FSR when sudden and significant events impact operations and rating implications cannot be evaluated due to a lack of timely or adequate information; or in cases where continued maintenance of the previously published rating opinion is in violation of evolving regulatory requirements.
NR	Status assigned to insurance companies that are not rated; may include previously rated insurance companies or insurance companies that have never been rated by AMBRS.

Rating Disclosure – Use and Limitations

A Best's Credit Rating (BCR) is a forward-looking independent and objective opinion regarding an insurer's, issuer's or financial obligation's relative creditworthiness. The opinion represents a comprehensive analysis consisting of a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of balance sheet strength, operating performance and business profile or, where appropriate, the specific nature and details of a security. Because a BCR is a forward-looking opinion as of the date it is released, it cannot be considered as a fact or guarantee of future credit quality and therefore cannot be described as accurate or inaccurate. A BCR is a relative measure of risk that implies credit quality and is assigned using a scale with a defined population of categories and notches. Entities or obligations assigned the same BCR symbol developed using the same scale, should not be viewed as completely identical in terms of credit quality. Alternatively, they are alike in category (or notches within a category), but given there is a prescribed progression of categories (and notches) used in assigning the ratings of a much larger population of entities or obligations, the categories (notches) cannot mirror the precise subtleties of risk that are inherent within similarly rated entities or obligations. While a BCR reflects the opinion of A.M. Best Rating Services, Inc. (AMBRS) of relative creditworthiness, it is not an indicator or predictor of defined impairment or default probability with respect to any specific insurer, issuer or financial obligation. A BCR is not investment advice, nor should it be construed as a consulting or advisory service, as such; it is not intended to be utilized as a recommendation to purchase, hold or terminate any insurance policy, contract, security or any other financial obligation, nor does it address the suitability of any particular policy or contract for a specific purpose or purchaser. Users of a BCR should not rely on it in making any investment decision; however, if used, the BCR must be considered as only one factor. Users must make their own evaluation of each investment decision. A BCR opinion is provided on an "as is" basis without any expressed or implied warranty. In addition, a BCR may be changed, suspended or withdrawn at any time for any reason at the sole discretion of AMBRS.

BCRs are distributed via the AMBRS website at www.ambest.com. For additional information regarding the development of a BCR and other rating-related information and definitions, including outlooks, modifiers, identifiers and affiliation codes, please refer to the report titled "Understanding Best's Credit Ratings" available at no charge on the AMBRS website. BCRs are proprietary and may not be reproduced without permission.
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1. Gallagher Companies are primarily compensated from the usual and customary commissions or fees received from the brokerage and servicing of insurance policies, annuity contracts, guarantee contracts and surety bonds (collectively "insurance coverages") handled for a client's account, which may vary from company to company and insurance coverage to insurance coverage. As permitted by law, Gallagher companies occasionally receive both commissions and fees.
2. In placing, renewing, consulting on or servicing your insurance coverages, Gallagher Companies may participate in contingent and supplemental commission arrangements with intermediaries and insurance companies. Contingent commissions provide for additional compensation if stipulated underwriting, profitability, volume or retention goals are achieved. Such goals are typically based on the total amount of certain insurance coverages placed by Gallagher with the particular insurance company and/or through the particular intermediary, not on an individual policy basis. Some insurance markets, including Gallagher-owned intermediaries, have modified their commission schedule with Gallagher, resulting in an increase in certain commission rates. These additional commissions, commonly referred to as "supplemental commissions" are frequently known as of the effective date of the applicable insurance placement, but some insurance companies pay this commission later and apart from when commission is normally paid at policy issuance. As a result, Gallagher may be considered to have an incentive to place your insurance coverages with a particular insurance company. **Note:** Upon request, your Gallagher representative can provide more specific market information regarding contingent and supplemental commission related to your insurance coverage placed through Gallagher.
3. Gallagher Companies may also receive investment income on fiduciary funds temporarily held by them, such as premiums or return premiums.
4. Gallagher Companies may access other facilities, including wholesalers, reinsurance intermediaries, captive managers, underwriting managers and others that act as intermediaries for both Gallagher and other brokers in the insurance marketplace. Gallagher Companies may own some of these facilities, in whole or in part. If such a facility is utilized in the placement of a client's account, the facility may earn and retain customary brokerage commission or fees for its work.
5. Gallagher assists its clients in procuring premium finance quotes and unless prohibited by law may earn compensation for this optional value-added service.
6. From time to time, Gallagher may participate in insurance company promotional events or training and development that insurers provide for Gallagher employees.
7. Gallagher strives to find appropriate coverage at a competitive price for our clients. In order to achieve these goals, we gather and analyze data about our clients and their insurance coverage. This data and the resulting analytical tools help us better understand the current marketplace, more accurately predict future trends and offer tailored solutions to our clients. This data may also be provided to insurers pursuant to consulting service agreements from which we earn fees.

If you have specific questions about the compensation received by Gallagher and its affiliates in relation to your insurance placements, please contact your Gallagher representative for more details.

In the event you wish to register a formal complaint regarding compensation Gallagher receives from insurers or third parties, please contact Gallagher via e-mail at Compensation_Complaints@ajg.com or by regular mail at:

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Important:

Since Gallagher does not handle your complete insurance program, these recommendations only reflect items within our scope of responsibility

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