

CONSUMER GUIDE TO



# Oregon Insurance Complaints

*Complaints from  
calendar year*

# 2007

Oregon Department of  
Consumer & Business Services  
Insurance Division

# About the Oregon Insurance Division

The mission of the Insurance Division is to administer the Insurance Code for the protection of the insurance-buying public while supporting a positive business climate.

We ensure the financial soundness of insurers, the availability and affordability of insurance, and the fair treatment of consumers by doing the following:

- Licensing insurance companies and monitoring their solvency
- Reviewing insurance products and premium rates for compliance
- Licensing insurance producers (agents) and consultants
- Resolving consumer complaints
- Investigating and penalizing companies and producers (agents) for violations of insurance law
- Monitoring the marketplace conduct of insurers and producers (agents)
- Educating the public about insurance issues
- Advocating reforms that protect the insurance-buying public

## Call us for help

### ■ Consumer Advocacy Unit — 503-947-7984 or 888-877-4894 (toll-free)

You have the right to seek assistance from the Insurance Division at any time by filing a formal complaint against an insurance company or producer (agent). A copy of the complaint is sent to the insurance company. A response from the insurance company or producer (agent) must be received at the Insurance Division within 21 days. A consumer advocate will determine what further actions, if any, will be taken. The Insurance Division will forward a copy of the insurance company's response to you. If a law has been broken, the matter may be referred to the Insurance Division's Investigations Unit.

### ■ Financial Regulation Section — 503-947-7982

To find out if a company is authorized to sell insurance in Oregon, call our Financial Regulation Section or visit our Web site, [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov); click on "Company Information."

### ■ Producer Licensing Unit — 503-947-7981

To find out if your insurance producer (agent) is licensed to do business in Oregon, call our Producer Licensing Unit or visit our Web site, [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov); click on "Producer Information."

## Visit our Web site

The Oregon Insurance Division's Web site includes all of our publications as well as other useful information for consumers. You can file a complaint against an insurance company or producer (agent), check to see if an insurer is authorized to do business in Oregon, and find out if your insurance producer is licensed in Oregon. Our Web address: [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov).



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this publication is available in alternative formats. Call 503-947-7980 or 503-947-7280 (TTY). Information in this publication is in the public domain and may be reprinted without permission.

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# Introduction

Insurance is an important issue for consumers. Most families rely on insurance to protect their health, income, cars, and homes. But for many consumers, shopping for insurance isn't easy. Insurance is complex and highly specialized. How can consumers make the best decisions about how much and what kind of insurance coverage to buy?

With the right information, consumers can make sound decisions. That's why the Oregon Insurance Division publishes the *Consumer Guide to Oregon Insurance Complaints*, an annual report of consumer complaints against insurance companies in six common lines of insurance:

- Auto (personal)
- Health
- Homeowner
- Life
- Annuities
- Long-term care

This report ranks major insurers by their complaint records, which are based on the number of confirmed consumer complaints closed by the Insurance Division and the amount of premium dollars written by the insurers. It allows consumers to see at a glance how a company compares with its competitors.

In addition to consumer complaints, there are other factors to consider when shopping for insurance. Cost, claims-handling performance, producer (agent) service, and the financial health of an insurance company are all important.

Being an informed consumer can prevent worry and save time and money. This report will explain how to comparison shop for insurance and what to look for. We've also included tips to help you learn about a company's financial health and how to choose a reliable licensed producer (agent).

By providing fair, accurate, and useful information for consumers, this report fulfills an important part of the Insurance Division's mission to protect consumers.

## Companies included in this report

Because of space limitations, only major insurance companies doing business in Oregon are included in this report. To be included, a company must have met at least one of the following three conditions during 2007:

- 1) Have at least 1 percent market share in Oregon
- 2) Have at least 10 confirmed complaints
- 3) Have its headquarters in Oregon

The amount of premium written in Oregon does not reflect the financial strength of a company or its ability to pay claims.

You can find additional information about insurance complaints, including complaint statistics for all insurers doing business in Oregon, on our Web site: [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov). Click on "Information for Consumers," then "Complaints Against Insurers and Agents."

# Total insurance complaints

During 2007, the Oregon Insurance Division closed 2,934 complaints in six common lines of insurance. The insurers listed in this report accounted for 2,275 complaints or 78 percent of all complaints in the six lines.

The table below compares the complaints for all insurers to those for the insurers named in this report.

Line of insurance	Total complaints		Percent
	Insurers in this report	All insurers	
Auto (personal)	1,163	1,403	83
Health	771	964	80
Homeowner	180	241	75
Life	78	205	38
Annuities	33	58	57
Long-term care	50	63	79
All six selected lines	2,275	2,934	78

# Total insurance premiums

Insurance premiums in Oregon in 2007 totaled \$14 billion in six common lines of insurance. The insurers listed in this report accounted for \$12 billion, or 86 percent of premiums in 2007.

The table below compares the premiums written by all insurers to premiums written by the insurers named in this report.

Line of insurance	Total premiums in billions of dollars		Percent
	Insurers in this report	All insurers	
Auto (personal)	1.69	1.94	87
Health	7.44	8.28	90
Homeowner	0.45	0.55	82
Life	0.71	1.09	65
Annuities	1.77	2.21	80
Long-term care	0.11	0.12	92
All six selected lines	12.17	14.19	86

# Types of complaints; making a complaint

The Insurance Division's Consumer Advocacy Unit assists thousands of consumers with insurance questions and complaints each year. In 2007, Consumer Advocacy helped recover \$1.78 million in claims for consumers who contacted our office.

Although individual consumer complaints are confidential by law, the Insurance Division is authorized to publish this report on the number of complaints by insurer. This report includes only "formal complaints" that were closed in 2007.

Most complaints involve disputes about claims processing and benefits. Other complaints involve problems with the sale and servicing of insurance policies, such as cancellations, nonrenewals, and rate increases.

If you have a question or complaint about an insurance company or one of its producers (agents), the Consumer Advocacy Unit may be able to help. We investigate complaints by contacting the company or producer (agent) involved, and we provide consumers with information or assistance to help resolve the problem. You can reach us by phone, fax, or e-mail.

## Consumer Advocacy Unit

Insurance Division — 2  
350 Winter St. NE, Room 440  
P.O. Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405

**Phone:** 503-947-7984 or 888-877-4894 (toll-free)

**Fax:** 503-378-4351

**E-mail:** [cp.ins@state.or.us](mailto:cp.ins@state.or.us)

**Web:** [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov)

# Managing the cost of insurance

Cost is an important factor for most consumers, and insurance companies don't all charge the same rates for the same types of policies. To obtain the best rates, it pays to shop around. Comparison shopping is easier when you know the type of coverage you need and how much coverage to purchase.

## Comparing apples to apples

If you're shopping for auto or homeowner insurance, ask the producer (agent) or company for a "quote." The quote is the estimated price for a policy with specific amounts and types of coverage. The quote is based on several factors. Many of those factors involve the company's claims experience. Others are based on your special needs and circumstances. For example, in auto insurance, major cost factors are the age and driving record of each driver in the household. In addition, the deductible you choose affects the quote.

When shopping for insurance, it's important that you give each producer (agent) or company the same information. Otherwise, comparing policies will be like comparing apples to oranges.

Ask if insurance companies offer special discounts, such as safe-driver discounts on auto insurance and nonsmoker discounts on homeowner insurance. Ask producers (agents) about coverage limits, benefits, and costs. You may need to talk to several producers (agents) and companies to make a thorough cost comparison.



# Choosing a financially healthy insurance company

About 1,700 companies sell insurance in Oregon. Most insurers doing business in Oregon are financially healthy. However, aggressive competition, poor investments, and mismanagement mean some insurance companies may become insolvent. That's why consumers need to know how to choose the healthiest insurance company possible.

To learn more about the health of a company, here is a list of better-known organizations that rate insurance companies based on their financial condition and claims-paying ability. The public library usually has at least one of these insurance rating reports, but it's helpful to compare two or more.

Companies may charge a fee for these services.

- **A.M. Best Company**

908-439-2200

[www.ambest.com](http://www.ambest.com)

- **Fitch Inc.**

800-893-4824

[www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com)

- **Moody's Investor Services**

212-553-0377

[www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com)

- **Standard & Poor's Rating Information Services**

212-438-2400

[www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com)

- **Weiss Ratings Inc.**

800-289-9222

[www.weissratings.com](http://www.weissratings.com)

The Financial Regulation Section of the Oregon Insurance Division can discuss an insurance company's financial condition with you, especially if you have questions about these reports. However, we cannot recommend a company for you.

- **Financial Regulation Section**

503-947-7982

## Choosing a qualified producer (agent)

Here are some tips to help you choose an insurance producer (agent):

- Make sure your producer (agent) is licensed in Oregon. If you aren't sure, call the Insurance Division's Producer Licensing Unit, 503-947-7981 or visit [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov); click on "Information for Insurance Producers," then "Insurance Producer Search Page."

- Ask around. You may want to find out if your local Better Business Bureau has received complaints about a particular producer. Ask insurance producers for recommendations from clients.

- Ask producers what kind of service you can expect from them. Will they regularly evaluate your insurance needs? Will they help when it's time to make a claim?

- Finally, to obtain the best value, contact more than one producer for quotes.

# How to use this report

The *Consumer Guide to Oregon Insurance Complaints* is an annual report of consumer complaints against major insurers in six types (or lines) of insurance:

- Auto (personal)
- Health
- Homeowner
- Life
- Annuities
- Long-term care

The guide includes the following information for calendar year 2007 for the major insurance companies doing business in Oregon:

- Premiums written in Oregon
- Total consumer complaints closed by the Insurance Division
- Confirmed complaints

A “confirmed complaint” is a complaint in which an insurance company provided some kind of relief to a consumer or took some other action after a complaint was filed with the Insurance Division. Examples include complaints in which an insurer took any of the following actions:

- Made an additional payment or a refund to a consumer
- Issued or restored an insurance policy
- Extended insurance coverage
- Reopened or settled a claim
- Provided some other kind of relief (for example, responded to a consumer’s inquiries)

Complaints in which the consumer and insurer couldn’t agree on the facts of the case also are counted as confirmed complaints.

In addition, the guide includes a “complaint index” and a ranking for each insurance company.

## How to use the complaint indexes and rankings

Consumers can use the complaint indexes and rankings to compare the complaint records of insurance companies.

Total complaints are reported in the guide because each complaint indicates a consumer had a problem with an insurer. However, only “confirmed complaints” are used in computing complaint indexes.

Examples of complaints not used in complaint indexes include the following:

- Those in which the Insurance Division found that an insurer had complied with Oregon insurance laws and rules
- Those in which the Insurance Division did not have jurisdiction (legal authority) to make a determination

A complaint index of 1.00 is average. That means the company’s share of confirmed complaints is equal to its share of business in Oregon. A complaint index of 2.00 means the company’s share of confirmed complaints is twice as large as its share of business.

**Example:** XYZ Insurance Company had 10 percent of the market for auto insurance in Oregon in 2007. It also had 10 percent of the confirmed auto insurance complaints closed that year. XYZ’s complaint index would be 1.00.

After complaint indexes are computed, insurers are ranked by their complaint records. A ranking of 1 indicates the best complaint record — or the fewest confirmed complaints in relation to the amount of premium the company wrote in Oregon in 2007. The highest numerical ranking indicates the worst complaint record — or the most confirmed complaints compared to the amount of premium written.



# Auto insurance (personal)

Company name	2007 premium	Total complaints	Confirmed complaints	Complaint index	2007 ranking
AIU Ins. Co.	1,319,766	11	10	11.66	41
Allstate Ins. Co.	82,477,258	82	74	1.38	31
Allstate Property and Casualty Ins. Co.	54,424,688	24	18	0.51	12
American Commerce Ins. Co.	17,654,036	25	24	2.09	35
American Family Mutual Ins. Co.	76,667,551	58	51	1.02	21
American Standard Ins. Co. of Wisconsin	18,889,309	17	16	1.30	30
California Casualty General Ins. Co. of Oregon	13,153,372	10	9	1.05	23
Coast National Ins. Co.	5,788,218	19	18	4.79	40
Country Mutual Ins. Co.	41,202,117	33	31	1.16	25
Country Preferred Ins. Co.	26,706,189	9	8	0.46	10
Farmers Ins. Co. of Oregon	274,531,027	211	187	1.05	22
Financial Indemnity Co.	11,556,544	14	14	1.86	34
GEICO General Ins. Co.	47,891,777	42	37	1.19	26
GEICO Indemnity Co.	16,211,262	16	16	1.52	32
Government Employees Ins. Co.	13,547,783	23	20	2.27	37
Hartford Ins. Co. of The Midwest	14,828,049	17	16	1.66	33
Liberty Mutual Fire Ins. Co.	28,691,444	18	17	0.91	18
Liberty Northwest Insurance Corp.	7,680,760	7	5	1.00	20
Metropolitan Property and Casualty Ins. Co.	13,460,261	13	11	1.26	27
Mid-Century Ins. Co.	62,819,079	23	23	0.56	14
Nationwide Ins. Co. of America	26,373,685	9	9	0.53	13
Nationwide Mutual Ins. Co.	17,148,645	31	29	2.60	38
North Pacific Ins. Co.	17,389,100	3	2	0.18	4
Northwestern Pacific Indemnity Co.	2,309,451	0	0	0.00	1
Oregon Automobile Ins. Co.	96,409	0	0	0.00	2
Oregon Mutual Ins. Co.	12,339,417	7	6	0.75	15
Progressive Casualty Ins. Co.	39,024,068	36	33	1.30	28
Progressive Classic Ins. Co.	24,697,517	8	6	0.37	8
Progressive Direct Ins. Co.	1,205,308	34	30	38.30	42
Progressive Northern Ins. Co.	23,899,406	6	6	0.39	9
Progressive Universal Ins. Co.	70,257,793	59	51	1.12	24
Property and Casualty Ins. Co. of Hartford	21,897,566	13	12	0.84	17
Safeco Ins. Co. of Oregon	143,064,062	96	86	0.93	19
State Farm Fire and Casualty Co.	27,486,581	2	2	0.11	3
State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins. Co.	344,701,743	119	109	0.49	11
Sublimity Ins. Co.	4,553,831	1	1	0.34	6
United Services Automobile Association	27,312,764	25	23	1.30	29
USAA Casualty Ins. Co.	28,986,557	8	7	0.37	7
Valley Property and Casualty Ins. Co.	13,158,697	8	7	0.82	16
Victoria Select Ins. Co.	7,048,851	11	10	2.18	36
Viking Ins. Co. of Wisconsin	5,325,254	14	11	3.18	39
Western Protectors Ins. Co.	8,559,351	1	1	0.18	5
<b>Total for this table</b>	<b>1,696,336,546</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,046</b>		
<b>Total for auto</b>	<b>1,943,510,288</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,263</b>		

# Health insurance

Health insurance includes a wide variety of insurance policies, from comprehensive policies that cover medical and surgical care to those that meet specific needs such as income replacement in case of disability.

Health insurance is available through groups and to individuals. Group health insurance is usually provided as a contract between the insurance company and a group policyholder such as an employer, labor union, or association.

Although you may not shop for health insurance in the same way you would for auto insurance, it's still important to understand how your health coverage works so that you receive all of the benefits to which you may be entitled.

If you would like more information about health insurance, call 503-947-7984 or 888-877-4894 (toll-free), to order the *Consumer Guide to Health Insurance*, or check our Web site, [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov), and click on "Publications."

Company name	2007 premium	Total complaints	Confirmed complaints	Complaint index	2007 ranking
Advantage Dental Plan, Inc.	13,523,390	3	3	2.48	21
Aetna Life Ins. Co.	54,601,153	23	16	3.27	22
American Family Life Assurance Co. of Columbus	59,923,969	13	11	2.05	20
Clear Choice Health Plans, Inc.	130,693,769	6	5	0.43	11
Familycare Health Plans, Inc.	14,290,333	0	0	0.00	5
Health Net Health Plan of Oregon, Inc.	370,779,812	59	46	1.38	17
Health Net Life Ins. Co.	168,836,528	2	2	0.13	6
Health Plan of CareOregon, Inc.	66,526,309	0	0	0.00	1
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest	1,757,518,502	76	62	0.39	10
Lifewise Health Plan of Oregon Inc.	322,135,373	67	56	1.94	18
Marion Polk Community Health Plan Advantage, Inc.	43,169,793	0	0	0.00	2
Mega Life and Health Ins. Co. (The)	22,601,208	16	14	6.91	25
Mid Rogue Independent Physician Assoc., Inc.	34,964,607	0	0	0.00	3
Mid-Valley IPA Employee Benefit Trust	5,891,869	2	2	3.79	24
ODS Health Plan, Inc.	147,040,349	36	27	2.05	19
Oregon Dental Service	104,283,381	9	3	0.32	8
PacifiCare Life Assurance Co.	41,979,968	39	35	9.30	27
PacifiCare of Oregon, Inc.	309,300,344	24	19	0.69	12
PacificSource Health Plans	467,108,905	20	16	0.38	9
Preferred Health Plan, Inc.	17,135,489	2	2	1.30	16
Providence Health Plan	793,874,884	69	54	0.76	13
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon	2,057,730,510	229	163	0.88	15
Regence Life and Health Ins. Co.	121,855,662	2	2	0.18	7
Standard Ins. Co.	68,286,156	23	21	3.43	23
Time Ins. Co.	37,869,875	29	25	7.37	26
Trillium Community Health Plan, Inc.	26,407,733	0	0	0.00	4
United Healthcare Ins. Co.	182,662,586	22	13	0.79	14
<b>Total for this table</b>	<b>7,440,992,457</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>597</b>		
<b>Total for health</b>	<b>8,289,762,417</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>743</b>		

# Homeowner insurance

A home is the biggest purchase most people will make, so it's essential to protect such an important investment. Homeowner insurance protects your home and what's in it. It protects you and your family against claims from others who may be accidentally hurt on your property.

Buying the right amount of coverage is important. Having enough coverage for your home and possessions means you will have to pay less out of your pocket to replace property that is destroyed or stolen.

To determine how much coverage you need, know the square footage and features of your home (fireplace, two stories, garage, etc.) so that the insurance producer (agent) who quotes a premium for you will be able to calculate today's cost to replace your home.

If you would like more information about homeowner insurance, call 503-947-7984 or 888-877-4894 (toll-free) to order the *Consumer Guide to Homeowner and Tenant Insurance*, or visit our Web site, [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov), and click on "Publications."

Company name	2007 premium	Total complaints	Confirmed complaints	Complaint index	2007 ranking
Allstate Indemnity Co.	19,450,488	4	3	0.41	7
Allstate Ins. Co.	27,405,306	17	16	1.54	20
Allstate Property and Casualty Ins. Co.	10,517,939	7	6	1.50	19
American Family Mutual Ins. Co.	23,507,075	8	7	0.79	11
California Casualty General Ins. Co. of Oregon	2,992,810	0	0	0.00	3
Country Mutual Ins. Co.	21,974,347	11	9	1.08	15
Farmers Ins. Co. of Oregon	73,260,181	41	36	1.30	18
Foremost Signature Ins. Co.	18,600,006	8	7	0.99	14
Liberty Mutual Fire Ins. Co.	8,932,744	4	4	1.18	17
Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp.	1,466,048	2	2	3.60	23
Metropolitan Property and Casualty Ins. Co.	5,572,320	6	6	2.84	22
Mutual of Enumclaw Ins. Co.	9,678,821	4	4	1.09	16
North Pacific Ins. Co.	8,140,310	0	0	0.00	2
Northwestern Pacific Indemnity Co.	8,477,994	0	0	0.00	1
Oregon Automobile Ins. Co.	986,822	0	0	0.00	5
Oregon Mutual Ins. Co.	7,839,460	2	2	0.67	10
Safeco Ins. Co. of Oregon	35,006,751	14	13	0.98	13
State Farm Fire and Casualty Co.	138,370,571	42	31	0.59	9
Sublimity Ins. Co.	3,579,231	3	3	2.21	21
United Services Automobile Assoc.	11,134,402	4	2	0.47	8
USAA Casualty Ins. Co.	9,521,189	1	1	0.28	6
Valley Property and Casualty Ins. Co.	6,071,371	2	2	0.87	12
Western Protectors Ins. Co.	1,963,570	0	0	0.00	4
<b>Total for this table</b>	<b>454,449,756</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>154</b>		
<b>Total for homeowner</b>	<b>551,281,972</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>209</b>		

# Life insurance

Besides providing a death benefit, life insurance can be used for estate planning, charitable giving, or even to fund a business transfer. Life insurance can offer important tax benefits.

There are two basic types of life insurance: term and cash value. Term insurance is the most affordable and allows most people to buy the greatest protection for the lowest premium. It offers a death benefit if the policyholder should die during the specified

period of time. Whole life, variable life, and universal life insurance are examples of policies that accumulate cash value over time. These types of policies combine a death benefit with some type of savings or investment plan.

If you have questions about life insurance, the Insurance Division can help. Call the Consumer Advocacy Unit, 503-947-7984 or 888-877-4894 (toll-free).

Company name	2007 premium	Total complaints	Confirmed complaints	Complaint index	2007 ranking
American General Life Ins. Co.	22,362,338	5	5	1.36	26
AXA Equitable Life Ins. Co.	14,964,975	2	2	0.82	22
Country Life Ins. Co.	12,479,442	0	0	0.00	4
Farmers New World Life Ins. Co.	23,158,018	6	6	1.58	27
Genworth Life and Annuity Ins. Co.	16,162,167	3	2	0.76	21
Guardian Life Ins. Co. of America (The)	16,658,773	0	0	0.00	2
Hartford Life and Annuity Ins. Co.	12,598,645	3	2	0.97	25
Hartford Life Ins. Co.	13,904,715	1	1	0.44	15
John Hancock Life Ins. Co. (U.S.A.)	23,617,241	1	1	0.26	11
John Hancock Variable Life Ins. Co.	13,373,641	1	1	0.46	16
Lincoln Benefit Life Co.	14,262,564	3	2	0.86	24
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co. (The)	32,157,701	2	2	0.38	13
Massachusetts Mutual Life Ins. Co.	16,956,973	2	2	0.72	20
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.	41,521,304	2	1	0.15	9
Midland National Life Ins. Co.	9,432,491	12	10	6.47	30
New York Life Ins. and Annuity Corp.	11,635,337	0	0	0.00	6
New York Life Ins. Co.	35,176,340	5	3	0.52	18
Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. Co.	82,930,352	2	1	0.07	8
Pacific Life Ins. Co.	40,669,683	1	1	0.15	10
Primerica Life Ins. Co.	13,699,192	0	0	0.00	3
Protective Life Ins. Co.	11,621,045	5	4	2.10	29
Prudential Ins. Co. of America	25,596,604	8	7	1.67	28
Regence Life and Health Ins. Co.	10,896,809	0	0	0.00	7
Riversource Life Ins. Co.	18,441,273	1	1	0.33	12
Standard Ins. Co.	52,812,246	6	5	0.58	19
State Farm Life Ins. Co.	42,991,737	3	3	0.43	14
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	11,975,123	0	0	0.00	5
Transamerica Occidental Life Ins. Co.	14,915,918	2	2	0.82	23
UNUM Life Ins. Co. of America	24,245,158	0	0	0.00	1
Western Reserve Life Assurance Co. of Ohio	24,026,783	2	2	0.51	17
<b>Total for this table</b>	<b>705,244,588</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>66</b>		
<b>Total for life</b>	<b>1,098,233,932</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>180</b>		

# Annuities

An annuity is an investment product that is typically used to save for retirement while deferring income taxes. You can choose from several payout options, including receiving a lump sum or having monthly income for life.

Annuities are issued by life insurance companies. You can buy annuities from the insurance company or through banks and brokerage firms.

One of the biggest advantages of annuities is that your savings grow without any current tax because earnings aren't taxed until payouts begin. Another advantage is that annuities can provide a steady stream of income that you cannot outlive.

If you have questions about annuities, call the Consumer Advocacy Unit, 503-947-7984 or 888-877-4894 (toll-free).

Company name	2007 premium	Total complaints	Confirmed complaints	Complaint index	2007 ranking
AIG Annuity Ins. Co.	58,996,830	1	1	0.65	18
AIG Sunamerica Life Assurance Co.	38,974,509	1	1	0.98	19
AXA Equitable Life Ins. Co.	90,693,070	1	1	0.42	17
Bankers Life and Casualty Co.	31,081,812	12	12	14.76	26
Great American Life Ins. Co.	66,482,858	3	3	1.73	23
Great-West Life and Annuity Ins. Co.	50,371,260	0	0	0.00	8
ING Life Ins. and Annuity Co.	121,161,339	0	0	0.00	3
ING USA Annuity and Life Ins. Co.	57,510,551	0	0	0.00	7
Jackson National Life Ins. Co.	100,135,590	6	6	2.29	24
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co. (The)	151,074,385	0	0	0.00	1
MetLife Investors USA Ins. Co.	97,037,122	0	0	0.00	4
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.	30,623,227	0	0	0.00	13
New York Life Ins. and Annuity Corp.	84,404,589	3	3	1.36	21
Ohio National Life Ins. Co. (The)	36,128,678	1	1	1.06	20
Pacific Life Ins. Co.	118,023,304	1	1	0.32	15
Principal Life Ins. Co.	49,033,963	0	0	0.00	9
Prudential Annuities Life Assurance Corp.	139,752,718	0	0	0.00	2
Riversource Life Ins. Co.	114,409,276	1	1	0.33	16
Standard Ins. Co.	33,134,425	0	0	0.00	12
Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada (U.S.)	38,931,090	0	0	0.00	10
Symetra Life Ins. Co.	23,923,809	1	1	1.60	22
Teachers Ins. and Annuity Assoc. of America	66,818,769	0	0	0.00	6
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	25,648,813	0	0	0.00	14
Transamerica Life Ins. Co.	34,746,186	0	0	0.00	11
Variable Annuity Life Ins. Co.	95,713,072	0	0	0.00	5
Western United Life Assurance Co.	22,683,904	2	2	3.37	25
<b>Total for this table</b>	<b>1,777,495,149</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>		
<b>Total for annuity</b>	<b>2,217,735,465</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>		

# Long-term care

Long-term care helps people who are ill or have disabilities and have problems taking care of themselves, usually when they are elderly. Most people need some kind of long-term care during their lifetimes.

In the past, long-term care traditionally was provided by family members. Increasingly, other care providers are replacing family caregivers. A variety of medical, personal, and social services fall under long-term care, including in-home bath aides, adult day care, and residential care.

Insurance is one way to pay for long-term care. Oregon law requires long-term care insurance policies to pay for covered services provided by a nursing home, an assisted living facility, home care, and adult foster care.

A long-term care policy protects your assets against expenses for your care. Most policies limit the total benefit they will pay over the life of the policy.

Long-term care insurance policies are not standardized. Companies sell policies with many combinations of benefits and coverages. Each policy is different. To buy the right coverage, you must decide what combination of benefits, services, and costs best fits your lifestyle.

If you would like more information about long-term care insurance, call 503-947-7984 or 888-877-4894 (toll-free) to order *A Shopper's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance* and the *Consumer Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance in Oregon*, or visit our Web site, [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov), and click on "Publications."

Company name	2007 premium	Total complaints	Confirmed complaints	Complaint index	2007 ranking
Allianz Life Ins. Co. of North America	2,474,161	0	0	0.00	4
Bankers Life and Casualty Co.	15,593,700	22	18	2.74	19
Continental Casualty Co.	10,156,452	3	3	0.70	10
Equitable Life and Casualty Ins. Co.	6,651,262	2	2	0.71	11
Genworth Life Ins. Co.	17,585,612	2	1	0.14	7
John Hancock Life Ins. Co.	12,923,658	1	1	0.18	8
Life Investors Ins. Co. of America	2,478,521	3	2	1.92	17
Lincoln Benefit Life Co.	2,524,504	0	0	0.00	3
Medico Ins. Co.	5,297,998	3	3	1.35	13
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.	5,620,402	2	2	0.85	12
Northwestern Long Term Care Ins. Co.	2,134,901	0	0	0.00	5
Penn Treaty Network America Ins. Co.	1,412,230	1	1	1.68	16
Prudential Ins. Co. of America	1,450,707	1	1	1.64	15
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon	701,668	0	0	0.00	6
Riversource Life Ins. Co.	3,598,224	2	0	0.00	2
State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins. Co.	4,747,245	0	0	0.00	1
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	2,146,116	2	2	2.22	18
Transamerica Occidental Life Ins. Co.	1,718,348	2	1	1.38	14
UNUM Life Ins. Co. of America	9,649,127	4	2	0.49	9
<b>Total for this table</b>	<b>108,864,836</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>		
<b>Total for long-term care</b>	<b>123,603,085</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>52</b>		



# Insurance publications

The Oregon Insurance Division publishes a variety of free publications for consumers. You may request a free copy by:

**Mail:** **Publications**  
Oregon Insurance Division  
P.O. Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405

**Telephone:** 503-947-7984 or  
888-877-4894 (toll-free)

**E-mail:** [dcbs.insmail@state.or.us](mailto:dcbs.insmail@state.or.us)

Publications are also available on our Web site, [insurance.oregon.gov](http://insurance.oregon.gov); click on "Publications."

- ***A Shopper's Guide to Long-term Care Insurance***  
Provides an overview of long-term care insurance, including costs and benefits. Published by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.
- ***Consumer alert: Beware of abusive Medicare insurance sales practices***
- ***Consumer alert: Senior specialists***
- ***Consumer alert: Suitable Annuities for Senior Citizens***
- ***Consumer Guide to Auto Insurance***  
Provides an overview of auto insurance and gives money-saving tips for drivers.
- ***Consumer Guide to Health Insurance***  
Provides an overview of health insurance and your health-care rights.
- ***Consumer Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance in Oregon***  
Provides an overview of long-term care insurance and explains Oregon's requirements for long-term care policies.
- ***Consumer Guide to Oregon Insurance Complaints***  
Ranks insurers from best to worst based on the number of consumer complaints to the Insurance Division.
- ***Do you have insurance questions or complaints? We can help.***  
Explains the services available from the Insurance Division's Consumer Advocacy Unit.
- ***Insurance advice for Oregon consumers***  
Answers frequently-asked questions about insurance.
- ***Insurance Bill of Rights***
- ***Long-Term Care Insurance: What you should know***
- ***Oregon Complaint Report Part II***  
Breaks down consumer complaints against insurance companies by complaint type and disposition. There is a \$25 charge for each year's report.
- ***Preneed funeral plans and so-called "funeral insurance"***  
Discusses options for prepaying for your funeral.
- ***Tips for seniors and their families***  
Avoid falling prey to a con artist or purchasing a product that is not suitable.
- ***Your Rights When Purchasing Insurance and Annuities***



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