



BEST'S COMPANY REPORT

BRIDGE CITY INSURANCE COMPANY

HIGHMARK INC. GROUP

AMB #: 069155

NAIC #: N/A

FEIN #: N/A

Phone:

Fax:

Website: N/A

BRIDGE CITY INSURANCE COMPANY

A

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Administrative Office: 120 Fifth Avenue, Delivery Code: Finacct, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-3099 United States

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AMB #: 010086

NAIC #: 35599

FEIN #: 25-1334623

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Best's Credit Rating Effective Date

November 20, 2024

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Information

[Best's Credit Rating Methodology](#)

[Guide to Best's Credit Ratings](#)

[Market Segment Outlooks](#)

Financial Data Presented

Financial data in this report: (i) includes data of affiliated entities that are not rating unit members where analytics benefit from inclusion; and/or (ii) excludes data of rating unit member entities if they operate in different segments or geographic areas than the Rating Unit generally. See [list of companies](#) for details of rating unit members and any such included and/or excluded entities.

The financial data in this report reflects the most current data available to the Analytical Team at the time of the rating. Updates to the financial exhibits in this report are available here: [Best's Financial Report](#).

Highmark Inc. Group

AMB #: 069155

Associated Ultimate Parent: AMB # 033398 - Highmark Health

Best's Credit Ratings - for the Rating Unit Members

Financial Strength Rating (FSR)

A
Excellent
Outlook: Stable
Action: Affirmed

Issuer Credit Rating (ICR)

a+
Excellent
Outlook: Stable
Action: Affirmed

Assessment Descriptors

Balance Sheet Strength	Strongest
Operating Performance	Adequate
Business Profile	Favorable
Enterprise Risk Management	Appropriate

Rating Unit - Members

Rating Unit: Highmark Inc. Group | AMB #: 069155

AMB #	Rating Unit Members
010086	Bridge City Insurance Company
006128	HM Health Insurance Company
060209	HM Life Ins Co of New York
009063	HM Life Insurance Company

AMB #	Rating Unit Members
068833	Highmark Choice Company
064010	Highmark Inc.
060570	Highmark Select Resources Inc. *
064415	Highmark West Virginia Inc.

* AMB# 060570 was deleted as a member of the Rating unit

Rating Rationale**Balance Sheet Strength: Strongest**

- Highmark Inc. Group's (Highmark Inc.) risk-adjusted capitalization as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio (BCAR) is at the strongest confidence level at the 99.6% VaR.
- Highmark Inc. maintains a diversified and liquid investment portfolio held predominantly in investment-grade fixed-income securities and short-term investments.
- Highmark Inc. has good financial flexibility and moderate financial leverage despite the issuance of \$800 million (\$450 million net of refinancing) in debt several years ago and high revolver utilization in each of the past three years, into 2024.
- AM Best notes that Highmark Inc. does complete scenario modeling, stress testing and economic capital modeling to manage capital deployment throughout the organization.

Operating Performance: Adequate

- Highmark Inc. has reported generally adequate profitability over the past five years driven partially by a series of one-time events. While operating performance in 2022 was impacted by equity market volatility and sizable realized capital losses, operating profitability was generally favorable, a trend that continued in 2023 and improved notably through the first half of 2024.
- Strong commercial enrollment growth, the affiliation with Highmark Western and Northeastern New York (fka HealthNow), and delays in Medicaid re-determinations drove the improvements in premiums in recent years.
- However, premium growth is expected to slow through 2024. Government segment premiums are expected to decline following the resumption of Medicaid re-determinations. Highmark has entered into a new quota share reinsurance agreement which was effective in January 2024 which indicate net premium declines in Commercial segments, though gross premiums pre-reinsurance have continued their upward trajectory.
- Management expects other opportunities, including Southeast PA (SEPA) expansion, West Virginia's Medicaid enrollment this year, as well as Medicare Advantage to aid in driving growth.
- Operating and net results have shown considerable volatility over the past five-year period, due to downside equity market/investment volatility in 2022, and a series of one-time favorable upside events 2020 through 2021. The earnings improvement in 2023 has continued through mid-2024, driven by improvements across most of its core businesses.

Business Profile: Favorable

- Highmark Inc. has very strong brand recognition in its core markets with Blue Cross and Blue Shield trademarks in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and Western and Northeastern New York.
- Highmark Inc. operates within an integrated healthcare model with its affiliated provider organization, Allegheny Health Network, supplemented by strategic relationships with other providers in their core health insurance markets.
- The organization has diversified businesses, which include dental, vision, stop-loss, managed care reinsurance, and IT platform services and administration.
- It continued the growth of its commercial and Medicare Advantage business, organically and through new acquisitions and affiliations through year-end 2023; however, growth has slowed through mid-2024.

Enterprise Risk Management: Appropriate

- Highmark Inc.'s enterprise risk management (ERM) program is a robust program that uses a layered framework to link its strategy, financial plan and business risks together.
- Governance, oversight and development are comprehensive and involve all levels of management to identify, manage, and mitigate newly identified risks as well as ongoing risks that are monitored.
- Highmark Inc. performs stress testing and economic capital modeling to quantify potential risk impacts to the organization. It utilizes advanced modeling to understand potential risk impacts and measure them against tolerance levels and appetite statements.

Outlook

- The stable outlooks reflect Highmark Inc.'s strongest level of balance sheet strength assessment, supported by its strongest level of risk-adjusted capitalization as measured by BCAR, and a trend of profitable underwriting performance and well-diversified business profile.

Rating Drivers

- Negative rating action may occur if there was a significant decline in balance sheet metrics.
- Negative rating action may occur if there is a trend of deterioration of operating performance.
- While unlikely, positive rating action may occur if there is a consistent trend of material improvement in operating performance.

Credit Analysis**Balance Sheet Strength**

Highmark Inc. Group's (Highmark Inc.) balance sheet strength assessment is strongest. This is primarily driven by its strongest level of risk-adjusted capitalization as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio (BCAR) of 50.5% at the 99.6% confidence level for year-end 2023. This measure remains at the strongest level and has remained relatively consistent for the past several years, with the BCAR projected to improve slightly at year-end 2024. The investment portfolio is conservatively managed through internal and external managers that follow investment policy guidelines to provide sound asset / liability management as well as preservation of capital.

Liquidity metrics remain adequate and are supported by external bank lines and FHLB borrowing capacity. The group does have a moderate amount of operating leverage and the company uses securities lending and FHLB borrowings to boost investment margin. Furthermore, there is debt at Highmark Inc. the core operating entity in the group and financial leverage for Highmark, Inc. is moderate at 27%. Debt levels were higher than typical in 2021 as Highmark Inc raised funds to acquire Gateway (now Highmark Wholecare) and has begun using its bank facility to more efficiently manage cash. Interest coverage was good at over 6.9 times earnings through mid-2024, but has been somewhat strained in recent years due to operating losses in 2022 (at the Highmark Inc. statutory entity), while the HM Inc Grp as a whole was still profitable.

Debt primarily consists of senior notes and the revolver borrowings. Debt is managed both at the group level and at the consolidated level, which after the affiliation with Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc. (formerly HealthNow New York Inc.) resulted in a much more modest increase in leverage. The financial leverage has remained flat year-over-year at the consolidated level in the 19-20% range, due to lower GAAP equity at the Highmark Health level. Interest coverage at the group deteriorated sharply in 2022, due to a combination of investment losses and lower underwriting income. However, cash flow and available assets remain more than sufficient to make interest payments. Losses on investments are not structural and did not repeat in 2023 and coverage has improved through 2024.

Capitalization

On a consolidated basis, Highmark Inc. has sufficient capital to support its insurance and investment risks. Highmark Inc.'s absolute capital and surplus was over \$6 billion at year-end 2023, remaining relatively flat-to-slightly improved compared to 2022 due to net realized investment losses that year. Capital management at each of Highmark Inc.'s subsidiaries is sound. NAIC risk-based capital (RBC), authorized control level (ACL), are maintained at adequate to more than adequate levels. Highmark Inc.'s consolidated RBC at December 31, 2023 was over 600%.

Highmark Inc. debt outstanding of \$1.56 billion, consisting of \$250 million 6.125% senior unsecured notes due 2041 outstanding, \$400 million 1.450% due 2026, and \$400 million 2.550% due 2031. The \$800 million in debt issued in 2021, the 2026 and 2031 notes, was partially to refinance \$350 million in debt that matured in 2021. The net increase in notes from year-end 2020 to 2021 was therefore \$440 million. No additional notes were issued since then. Highmark also had \$290 million drawn on its credit facility and \$230 million of FHLB borrowings last quarter ending. The addition of FHLB drawings and reduced surplus in 2022 drove Highmark Inc.'s statutory debt to total capital and surplus ratio to over 25% several years ago, which was up significantly from where it had previously been in the 10% range. This is a higher level of financial leverage compared to other organizations of Highmark Inc.'s size. Leverage is managed both at the stat entity and also at the parent company. Highmark Health's (Highmark Inc's ultimate parent) debt level decreased modestly in 2023 to 19% from 20.5%. A reduction in Allegheny Health Network (AHN) revenue bonds and revolver drawings (excluding FHLB, which is considered operating leverage) drove the overall leverage reduction at Highmark Health.

Highmark Inc. Group's current liquidity remains good at over 100%, supported by strong reported cash flows from operations. Highmark also maintains \$500 million in revolving credit facility capacity along with \$300 million of FHLB capacity.

Asset Liability Management - Investments

Highmark Inc.'s combined investment portfolio, which totals \$10.4 billion, is mainly comprised of fixed income securities and cash & cash equivalents (58.5% and 4.6% respectively); however, the allocation of invested assets includes a moderate level of unaffiliated equities (20.6%). On a consolidated basis, the fixed income securities are broadly distributed within the various maturity bands and mainly matched to the duration of liabilities. Approximately 90% of Highmark Inc. Group's fixed instruments were investment grade at

Balance Sheet Strength (Continued...)

year-end 2023 and early 2024. The total of investments categorized as below investment grade were in line the past three years, but slightly above historical levels. The fixed income portfolio includes U.S. Government, state and municipal with the majority held in large corporate issues. Bond holdings also include foreign and hybrid securities; however, these comprise a small percentage of the total fixed asset portfolio.

The ownership interests in insurance subsidiaries and other affiliated organizations are material and remained largely unchanged in 2024, but remain sound and do not present any measurable long-term exposure to financial markets as these subsidiaries are adequately capitalized for their business risks. There is always a liquidity risk should events trigger operating cash needs; however, these events are remote and the liquidity of the investment portfolio, and access to debt markets mitigates this risk. Highmark Inc. and its subsidiaries' investment portfolios are managed by internal and external investment managers. Unaffiliated common equities are mainly held in corporate securities and mutual funds. Highmark Inc.'s real estate holdings are mainly company occupied.

Holding Company Assessment

The assessment of the holding company is neutral. The Highmark Health organization, which includes its subsidiaries, reported a total outstanding debt balance of approximately \$2.5 billion at year-end 2023. This includes debt held at both Highmark Inc. and its sister organization, Allegheny Health Network (AHN). Financial leverage, which excludes FHLB drawings, has fluctuated around 20% the past three years. Interest coverage for 2022 was down significantly from prior years, but rebounded the past two years through mid-2024. Liquidity is more than sufficient to service debt over the near term and the investment volatility that drove reduced coverage in 2022 improved in both 2023 and 2024. The organization has shown equity growth through the favorable earnings and the affiliation of Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc., though unrealized losses in the investment portfolio drove an equity decline in 2022. Equity has rebounded over the past two years into 2024, as the organization remains profitable on an operating basis and equity markets have rebounded driving investment gains.

Operating Performance

Highmark Inc. Group's operating performance is assessed as adequate. Highmark Inc. Group has reported favorable underwriting and net results for the past five years. However, net results have been impacted by a series of one-time events. These included, the sale of Visionworks in 2019, risk corridor payment and COVID-19 driven underwriting performance in 2020, and the gain on affiliation of Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc. (formerly HealthNow New York Inc.) in 2021, all contributed materially to results. Volatility in results continues in 2022 as large realized investment losses impacted what was otherwise a very profitable year. Highmark Inc. Group's statutory operating performance has been consistently profitable - but volatile - over the past five of years. Mid-2024 operating results appear to be on a favorable trajectory, but will likely be lower going into 2025 as the full impact of Medicaid redeterminations and increased utilization impact results. Better investment results will likely continue to offset the decline in underwriting income to some degree. Historically, underwriting results in 2022 were actually very favorable due mostly to reduced utilization in Medicare Advantage (MA) and the continued extension of the Public Health Emergency pushing Medicaid redeterminations into 2023. Offsetting this favorability were lower investment income and realized investment losses taken as part of normal portfolio rebalancing during a period of capital market devaluation. Investment losses were unusually acute in 2022 as valuations for both fixed income and equity securities fell materially. AM Best expects underwriting income to moderate over the near term as the ultimate impact of Medicaid redeterminations acuity flows through all of Highmark Inc. Group's core markets, and increased volume at AHN drives increased claims costs at the health plan. It will take time for the required Medicaid related rate actions by the states to flow through to results, and underwriting income and overall earnings could be challenged in the interim for this product line.

Highmark Inc. Groups statutory revenue declined through mid-2024, reported at \$6.6 billion down from \$6.9 billion through second quarter 2023. The underperformance was driven by declines in Medicaid membership. Short-term pressure on premiums is expected as states purge their Medicaid rolls through 2023 and into 2024. Other lines still projected to experience moderate growth. Some pressure in small group where the product inherited from HMNY was underpriced and is losing members as prices are corrected. Highmark Inc. Group's revenue growth trend, on a net premium written basis, was under pressure prior to the pandemic. That trend has reversed over the last four years. Total enrollment fell slightly in 2020 as commercial groups suffered member attrition due to the economic impact of COVID-19. Despite this, premium increased for that year due, primarily, to the \$571.5 million risk corridor payment received from the federal government recorded as premium revenue. Enrollment growth and premium growth were both substantial in 2021 with the addition of Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc. and the 50% of Gateway Health Highmark did not already own. A full year of revenue contribution from those acquired and affiliated entities, further delays in Medicaid redeterminations, and strong organic sales efforts in individual and MA business resulted in very favorable premium growth in 2022. Growth over the near term will face headwinds, due to the combination of a new quota share reinsurance contract that began Jan 2024, resulting in a decrease in premium, as well as Medicaid redeterminations which reduced membership in that line of business. However, continued growth in MA and commercial may maintain overall premium growth over the near to intermediate term.

Operating Performance (Continued...)

Highmark Inc.'s operating income is primarily driven by its health insurance line of business; however Highmark Inc. has a portfolio of diversified subsidiaries that strengthen its business profile and operating footprint outside of its core market of western Pennsylvania. As controlled affiliates, Highmark West Virginia, Inc. and Highmark BCBSD Inc. (Delaware) add geographic earnings diversification as the largest health insurers in those states. Highmark Inc. also added a new affiliate Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc. and a new fully owned subsidiary Gateway Health LLC. (Highmark Inc. owned 50% prior to 2021 transaction) to expand its geographic diversity and improve scale in government businesses. Highmark Choice Company provides coverage for seniors through its Medicare Advantage products and provides coverage for qualified low-income children through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The company has a reinsurance agreement with Highmark Inc. to cede 100% of its business. Additionally, HM Health Insurance Company (HM Health) adds further geographic diversity with its licenses in 47 jurisdictions in the United States and earnings are derived from health product offerings that include Medicare Part D Prescription Drug coverage; it also has a reinsurance agreement with Highmark Inc. and cedes 100% of its business as well. Further increasing organizational scale and business and geographical diversification is Highmark Inc.'s dental business written through United Concordia Companies (United Concordia) and stop loss businesses, written through HM Insurance Group (HMIG). United Concordia is a strong dental brand with a large enrollment of more than 10 million members and a dental network of more than 133,000 dentists. HMIG is a national stop loss carrier that adds about \$1 billion dollars in additional revenue to the overall organization. The earnings for these companies are reflected in Highmark Inc.'s results.

Highmark Inc. continues to make significant investments to its systems infrastructure and the company makes contributions to its community initiatives. Expenses relating to partner platform integration and enhanced IT platform capabilities have continued; however the investments are expected to translate into improvements in processes and capabilities. Highmark Inc. invested in its capabilities to further its mission to diversify earnings by expanding upon its service options to customers inside and outside of its core marketplace. Its platform services are sold to other health insurers and provide scale.

Business Profile

Highmark Inc. Group's business profile is considered favorable. Highmark Inc is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Highmark Health, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation and a tax-exempt organization. In addition to offering a diversified portfolio of health insurance products, Highmark Health also operates a hospital plan and a professional health service plan. Through its subsidiary, Highmark Choice Company (f/k/a Keystone Health Plan West, Inc.), a licensed health maintenance organization (HMO), Highmark offers managed care products and services that complement Highmark's Blue Cross and Blue Shield product portfolio in Pennsylvania. Highmark also offers insured health products to individuals and small employers in Pennsylvania written by HM Health Insurance Company (d/b/a Highmark Health Insurance Company). In addition, Highmark has significant health operations in West Virginia and Delaware, through its controlled affiliates Highmark West Virginia (d/b/a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of West Virginia) and Highmark BCBSD Inc.

Highmark utilizes its Highmark Blue Shield license to provide products and services in the southeastern regions of Pennsylvania through joint agreements with Independence Blue Cross. In 2015, Highmark Inc. completed its statutory merger with Hospital Services Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, d/b/a Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA). As a result of this merger, First Priority Life Insurance company, Inc., a for-profit wholly owned life, accident and health insurance company, HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. d/b/a/ First Priority Health management services, became wholly owned subsidiaries of Highmark Inc. In March of 2021 Highmark Inc. expanded into New York through an affiliation with HealthNow NY, Inc., which was subsequently renamed Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc., which serves the western and northeastern parts of the state of New York. In September of 2021 Highmark completed the acquisition of the remaining 50% of Gateway Health Plan, Inc., a leading managed care organization based in Pennsylvania. Highmark Inc. had previously held a 50% ownership interest in Gateway Health, which was created in 1992 through a partnership between Highmark Inc. and Mercy Health.

Highmark Inc.'s (including its subsidiaries and affiliates) core business is health insurance and managed health care products and services and operates as Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield throughout the 29 county service areas of western Pennsylvania, as Highmark Blue Shield in the 21 counties of central Pennsylvania and 13 counties in northeast Pennsylvania as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Highmark Inc. offers a comprehensive portfolio of healthcare, dental, vision, and medical stop-loss insurance products. Employer groups purchase coverage on a fully-insured or self-insured funding arrangement and individual coverage is purchased through its participation in health exchanges and off-exchange through agent distribution.

Highmark Inc. markets its core health insurance products in the western, central, and northeastern regions of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and Western and Northeastern New York in the individual, commercial, and senior markets. Highmark has announced that beginning in 2024 it will begin selling certain medical products in South Eastern Pennsylvania, the regions including Philadelphia and its surrounding counties. In 2025, the plan is to expand its product offerings in these counties. The health plan's ultimate parent, Highmark Health, owns Allegheny Health Network (AHN) hospital systems, which allows for an introduction of products tailored to its strategic alignment with its affiliated integrated delivery health system.

Business Profile (Continued...)

Highmark Inc. utilizes multiple distribution channels to sell its products, which are distributed through an internal sales force and independent agents and brokers, as well as through partnership arrangements with other carriers. Primarily, partnership arrangements leverage other not-for-profit Blue Cross Blue Shield plans' distribution capabilities to sell Highmark Inc.'s specialty products outside of its core market, such as employer medical stop-loss, dental, and vision. Highmark Inc. offers its individual members Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) compliant products on and off the health exchanges in the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and New York. Enrollment on and off-exchange through existing traditional distribution remains very active; and Highmark Inc.'s exchange membership has shown a modest increase over the past two years.

Highmark Inc.'s senior market product offerings include Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO), Medicare Advantage Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), and Medicare Prescription Drug Part D (PDP) plans in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and New York. Medicare supplemental coverage from Part A and Part B is offered to seniors seeking additional hospital and physician care, outpatient care, preventive care services, lab testing, and screening. Highmark Inc. is also one of the nation's largest Medicare Advantage program participants based on enrollment. Highmark Inc. has maintained 4+ Star ratings for the last nine years for its HMO and PPO in the State of Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc. also provides health products on a national basis through its participation in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association BlueCard program. Highmark's national health business includes administrative service only contracts (ASO), third party administration (TPA), network access arrangements, and other services on behalf of other Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans. Highmark Inc. participates in the BlueCard program, which offers in network benefits to plan members through the networks of other Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in other states and regions. National account business continues to generate good operating results for the organization and it contributes a large revenue source to spread against a large portion of the general operating expenses.

Highmark Inc. is a market leader for commercial health insurance business in Western Pennsylvania. Despite the market presence of a competing Blue plan, Highmark Inc. also has a leading market share in Central Pennsylvania's commercial market. Highmark Inc. Group has gained strong market share in western and northeastern New York through its affiliation with Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc. in 2021. Highmark also holds leading market shares in West Virginia and Delaware. A competing Blue plan is currently the dominant market leader in the Southeastern PA market, making Highmark's entrance into the region highly ambitious.

Business diversification is an attribute of strong organizations and Highmark Inc. has made in-roads in achieving this through its diversified business services offering. Highmark has partnerships with both Blue and non-Blue brands offering technology services for claims processing. Its HM Health Solutions business (d/b/a enGen) provides platform services to Independence Blue Cross and the Blue Cross Blue Shield health plans of Minnesota, Wyoming, and North Dakota. Including Highmark Inc. the number of members served is approximately 11 million. Further contributing to business diversification is Highmark Inc.'s national dental subsidiaries which operate under the United Concordia brand name. United Concordia is a strong brand in the dental market with enrollment of more than 10 million members and a dental network of more than 133,000 dentists. The HM Insurance Group, provides diversified stop loss, specialty accident & health, and other products and is a significant competitor in the stop loss market segment, helping provide Highmark with a competitive advantage as a core member of the group with a broad national footprint. The HM Life group has experienced favorable double digit growth in recent years, and has excellent persistency. There is a focus on Blue partner organizations, but the organization also writes stop loss with other health insurers nationally. . All of these added business brings scale to Highmark Inc. and an additional revenue component further deepening the organizations earnings diversification.

Enterprise Risk Management

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) for Highmark Inc. is appropriate. The program is managed at both the ultimate parent, Highmark Health and at Highmark Inc.. The ERM program is mature and measures risks both on a qualitative and quantitative basis. The Chief Risk Officer has overall accountability for the process and reports to the CEO. All levels of management and the Board are involved in the ERM process and roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. The Board-level Risk Committee has responsibility for ERM and members have been fully educated on risk management.

The ERM program uses a layered framework to link its strategy, financial plan, and business risks together. The process includes risk and threat identification across the entire enterprise with scoring of likelihood (of occurrence) and impact of a risk on the enterprise. Tactical risk identification is completed for all market/business segments and operational areas. Risk assessments are done annually and reported through senior management and the Board.

Oversight and development are comprehensive and involve all levels of management to identify, manage, and mitigate newly identified and ongoing risks that are monitored. Management and the Board align its corporate strategy along with the risk assessment. The company has developed a risk appetite statement intended to provide a high level view of the organizations willingness to accept risk in pursuit of business and strategic objectives.

Enterprise Risk Management (Continued...)

Highmark Health measures capital adequacy over a three-year forecasting horizon, using an internal economic capital measure, as measured by the economic capital model (ECap). This model is used to evaluate and compare the amount of available economic capital ("AEC") to the amount of required economic capital ("REC") needed to protect the Enterprise from economic insolvency, at a given confidence interval. Highmark Health defines the difference between AEC and REC as the "capital buffer". With an established risk appetite and a management committee charged with evaluating capital needs and priorities ("Capital Committee"), the outputs from the ECap Model have been utilized in evaluating enterprise strategic decisions from a capital perspective and is utilized as the basis of solvency assessment in the annual Own Risk and Solvency Assessment (ORSA) Summary. The ECap Model utilizes several techniques to create relationships between risks to quantify the degree to which risks occur simultaneously and establishes the total level of diversification across the Enterprise.

Reinsurance Summary

Effective January 1, 2024, Highmark Inc. entered into a quota share reinsurance contract with The Canada Life Assurance Company to cede 40% of its direct and assumed comprehensive hospital and medical business.

Environmental, Social & Governance

Highmark Inc. has exposure to ESG risks through its collection and maintenance of sensitive health data, its investment portfolio, and potential branding, tax and regulatory risks related to an inability to implement mission goals implicit in its non-profit structure. Highmark continues to pursue best practices cyber security and data maintenance practices, and complies with all relevant privacy regulations. However, at a macro-level, health payers and providers are at increased risk to cyber-crime due to the sensitive data they maintain. Highmark Inc. has not been fully immune to such action as a phishing attack caused a limited data breach at its affiliated provider partner Allegheny Health Network in 2022. ESG risks intrinsic to the asset portfolio are not explicitly reported at the portfolio level but are considered, when appropriate, at the individual security selection level. Highmark holds a diversified portfolio which will, by design, limit its exposure to any concentrations in risk, ESG included. Branding, tax, and regulatory risks that arise due to Highmark's stated commitment to community health and non-profit status are managed at all levels of the organization. Highmark management's strategic objectives continue to be in line with its publicly stated goal of community health which, along with effective operational management, mitigates financial risks that would arise from failure to pursue its stated mission. Currently these risks are not evaluated in the context of ESG but are managed as a collection of individual risks that aggregate into the formal ERM program.

Financial Statements

Balance Sheet	Year End - December 31			
	2023		2022	
	USD (000)	%	USD (000)	%
Cash and Short Term Investments	476,646	3.4	426,575	3.1
Bonds	6,080,371	43.2	6,082,175	44.8
Preferred and Common Stock	2,145,112	15.2	2,039,554	15.0
Other Invested Assets	1,692,411	12.0	1,603,493	11.8
Total Cash and Invested Assets	10,394,540	73.8	10,151,797	74.8
Premium Balances	1,105,631	6.3	1,060,269	6.7
Healthcare and Other Receivables	705,866	5.0	626,311	4.6
Other General Account Assets	1,874,294	13.3	1,735,735	12.8
Total General Account Assets	14,080,330	100.0	13,574,113	100.0
Total Assets	14,080,330	100.0	13,574,113	100.0
Policy and Claim Reserves	2,606,500	18.5	2,629,191	19.4
Funds Held Under Reinsurance and Coinsurance Agreements	33	999.9	1,168	999.9
Asset Valuation Reserve	24,631	0.2	8,610	0.1
Accrued Expenses and Other General Account Liabilities	5,450,089	38.7	5,107,054	37.6
Total General Account Liabilities	8,081,254	57.4	7,746,022	57.1
Total Liabilities	8,081,254	57.4	7,746,022	57.1
Unassigned Surplus	5,629,281	40.0	5,442,383	40.1
Other Surplus	369,795	2.6	385,707	2.8
Total Capital and Surplus	5,999,077	42.6	5,828,090	42.9
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	14,080,330	100.0	13,574,113	100.0

Source: BestLink® - Best's Financial Suite

Last Update

November 20, 2024

Identifiers

AMB #: 069155

This company is a data record that AM Best utilizes to represent the AM Best Consolidated financials for the Multi-Line business of AMB#: [033398 Highmark Health](#).

AMB#: [064010 Highmark Inc.](#) has been assigned as the AMB Group Lead for this consolidation and should be used to access name, address, or other contact information for this AM Best Consolidated Group.

Financial Data Presented

See [LINK](#) for details of the entities represented by the data presented in this report.

Highmark Inc. Group

Operations

Domiciled: Pennsylvania, United States

Business Type: Multi-Line

Organization Type: Non-Profit

Marketing Type: Direct Response

Best's Credit Ratings

Rating Relationship

This group represents an AM Best Rating Unit. In our opinion, companies under this Rating Unit have an Excellent ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations and an Excellent ability to meet their ongoing senior financial obligations.

Best's Credit Rating Effective Date: November 20, 2024

Rating rationale and credit analysis can be found in the [Best's Credit Report for AMB# 069155 - Highmark Inc. Group](#).

AMB#	Rating Unit Members	Best's Credit Ratings	
		Financial Strength Rating	Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating
010086	Bridge City Insurance Company	A	a+
006128	HM Health Insurance Company	A	a+
060209	HM Life Ins Co of New York	A	a+
009063	HM Life Insurance Company	A	a+
068833	Highmark Choice Company	A	a+
064010	Highmark Inc.	A	a+
064415	Highmark West Virginia Inc.	A	a+

Bridge City Insurance Company

Operations

Date Incorporated: June 22, 1977 | **Date Commenced:** February 16, 1978

Domiciled: Pennsylvania, United States

Licensed: (Current since 12/20/2001). The company is licensed in AL, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MD, MI, MS, MO, NV, NJ, NM, NC, OR, PA, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA and WV.

Business Type: Health - Medical Non-HMO
Organization Type: Stock
Marketing Type: Broker
Best's Financial Size Category: XV (Greater than or Equal to USD 2.00 Billion)

Last Update

December 12, 2024

Identifiers

AMB #: 010086
NAIC #: 35599
FEIN #: 25-1334623

Contact Information

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Financial Data Presented

The financial data in this report reflects the most current data available at the time the report was printed.

Best's Credit Ratings

Best's Credit Rating History

AM Best has assigned ratings on this company since 1994. In our opinion, the company has an Excellent ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations and an Excellent ability to meet their ongoing senior financial obligations.

The following are the most recent rating events, for longer history refer to [Rating History](#) in BestLink:

Effective Date	Best's Financial Strength Ratings				Best's Long-Term Issuer Credit Ratings		
	Rating	Affiliation	Outlook	Action	Rating	Outlook	Action
Current -							
Nov 20, 2024	A	g (Group Rating)	Stable	Affirmed	a+	Stable	Affirmed
Sep 22, 2023	A	g (Group Rating)	Stable	Affirmed	a+	Stable	Affirmed
Aug 31, 2022	A		Stable	Affirmed	a+	Stable	Affirmed
Sep 17, 2021	A		Stable	Affirmed	a+	Stable	Upgraded
Sep 3, 2020	A		Stable	Upgraded	a	Stable	Upgraded

Management

Highmark Casualty Insurance Company (HCIC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of HM Insurance Group (HM), a downstream subsidiary of Highmark Inc. and ultimate parent, Highmark Health. Highmark Inc. was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Other direct subsidiaries of HM include HM Life Insurance Company (HMLIC) and HM Life Insurance Company of New York (HMLNY). Highmark Inc. was created in 1996 through the consolidation of HM's former parent, Veritus Inc. (which conducted business as Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania) and The Medical Service Association of Pennsylvania (which conducted business as Pennsylvania Blue Shield).

Officers

President: Mark Lawrence

Corporate Secretary: Thomas D. Kavanaugh

Treasurer and CFO: Neil A. Reece

Directors

John R. Baum

William A. Brothers

Thomas A. Doran

Matthew J. Feczko

Michael W. Fry

Mark Lawrence

Sarah M. Marche

David M. Matter

Frederick G. Merkel

Deborah L. Rice-Johnson

David Wilson

History

The company was incorporated on June 22, 1977, under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as Consumer Service Casualty Insurance Company. It commenced business on February 16, 1978. Effective December 22, 1993, the name was changed to Trans-General Casualty Insurance Company, Inc. The current title of Highmark Casualty Insurance Company was adopted on April 1, 1999. Paid-up capital totals \$2,500,000, consisting of 250,000 common shares issued at a par value of \$10 per share. All authorized shares are outstanding.

Professional Service Providers

Investment Managers, Advisors, Brokers/Dealers:

- HIGHMARK HEALTH (Affiliated Firm)
- C.S. MCKEE INVESTMENT PARTNERS (Unaffiliated Firm)
- WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLP (Unaffiliated Firm)

State Rate Filings

Director of State Rate Filings: Krista Maddigan | VP Reg Affairs & Compliance

Summary of Approved Filings

The table below shows the number of approved filings in the last five years. For more information, please refer to [Best's State Rate Filings - 010086 - Bridge City Insurance Company](#)

Major Line	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Commercial General Liability	11	1	...	5	14
Total	11	1	...	5	14

Source: Best's State Rate Filings

Financial Statements

Financial Statements reflected were compiled from the most recent company-filed statement available in BestLink - Best's Statement File – P/C, US.

Currency: US Dollars

	9-Months		Year End - December 31			
	2024		2023		2022	
Balance Sheet	USD (000)	%	USD (000)	%	USD (000)	%
Cash and Short Term Investments	2,247	0.9	8,232	2.6	45,348	13.4
Bonds	201,880	84.6	252,645	79.0	243,833	72.3
Preferred and Common Stock	25,373	10.6	30,516	9.5	25,776	7.6
Other Invested Assets	7,172	3.0	6,088	1.9	6,889	2.0
Total Cash and Invested Assets	236,672	99.1	297,482	93.0	321,847	95.4
Premium Balances	636	0.3	20,236	6.3	6,536	1.9
Net Deferred Tax Asset	149	...	395	0.1
Other Assets	1,439	0.6	2,039	0.6	8,693	2.6
Total Assets	238,746	100.0	319,906	100.0	337,471	100.0
Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves:						
Net Reported Loss Reserves*	983	0.4	1,004	0.3	1,070	0.3
Net IBNR Loss Reserves*	9,306	3.9	65,447	20.5	88,173	26.1
Net LAE Reserves	14	...	19	...
Total Net Loss and LAE Reserves	10,289	4.3	66,466	20.8	89,261	26.5
Net Unearned Premiums	23	...	151	...	530	0.2
Other Liabilities	11,984	5.0	16,543	5.2	15,238	4.5
Total Liabilities	22,296	9.3	83,160	26.0	105,029	31.1
Capital Stock	2,500	1.0	2,500	0.8	2,500	0.7
Paid-In and Contributed Surplus	17,250	7.2	17,250	5.4	17,250	5.1
Unassigned Surplus	196,700	82.4	216,996	67.8	212,692	63.0
Total Policyholders' Surplus	216,450	90.7	236,746	74.0	232,442	68.9
Total Liabilities and Surplus	238,746	100.0	319,906	100.0	337,471	100.0

Source: BestLink® - Best's Financial Suite

A Best's Financial Strength Rating opinion addresses the relative ability of an insurer to meet its ongoing insurance obligations. The ratings are not assigned to specific insurance policies or contracts and do 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. A Financial Strength Rating 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.

A Best's Issue/Issuer Credit Rating is an opinion regarding the relative future credit risk of an entity, a credit commitment or a debt or debt-like security.

Credit risk is the risk that an entity may not meet its contractual, financial obligations as they come due. These credit ratings do not address any other risk, including but not limited to liquidity risk, market value risk or price volatility of rated securities. The rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any securities, insurance policies, contracts or any other financial obligations, nor does it address the suitability of any particular financial obligation for a specific purpose or purchaser.

In arriving at a rating decision, AM Best relies on third-party audited financial data and/or other information provided to it. While this information is believed to be reliable, AM Best does not independently verify the accuracy or reliability of the information. Any and all ratings, opinions and information contained herein are provided "as is," without any express or implied warranty.

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