

Rating Definitions

A.M. Best		Standard & Poor's		Moody's		Kroll		Comdex	
A.M. Best's Financial Strength Rating is an opinion of an insurer's ability to meet its obligations to policyholders. A.M. Best uses letter grades ranging from A++, the highest, to F, companies in liquidation. Rating modifiers and affiliation codes may also be associated with these ratings.		S&P uses a letter grade scale that ranges from AAA, the highest rating, to D, the lowest rating. Ratings from AA to B may be modified by a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within those grades. An insurer rated BBB or higher is regarded as having financial security characteristics that outweigh any vulnerability and is highly likely to have the ability to meet financial commitments.		Moody's uses a letter grade scale that ranges from Aaa, the highest rating to C, the lowest rating. It also applies modifiers (1, 2, or 3) for ratings below Aaa to indicate approximate rank of the company in a particular class. This provides investors with a system for measuring an insurance company's ability to meet its policyholder claims and obligations.		Kroll uses a letter grade scale that ranges from AAA, the highest rating to D, the lowest rating. Ratings from AA through CCC may be modified by a plus or minus sign to indicate upper and lower risk levels within the broader category.		The Comdex ranking is not a rating. Instead, it is a composite index that is based on the ratings a company has earned from the leading rating services - A.M. Best, Standard & Poor's, Moody's, Fitch and TheStreet.com. These ratings are very important, but because the rating agencies do not employ a universal ratings scale, it can create a sense of uncertainty when comparing companies to each other. Therefore, the Comdex ranking provides a company's standing on a scale of 1 to 100 in relation to other companies that have been rated.	
Superior	A+	Highest - extremely strong	AAA	Highest Quality	Aaa	Extremely Strong	AAA		
Excellent	A	Highest - very strong	AA	High Quality	Aa1, Aa2, Aa3	Strong	AA		
Good	B+	High - still strong	A	Upper Medium Grade	A1, A2, A3	Sound	A		
Fair	B	Adequate	BBB	Medium Grade	Baa1, Baa2, Baa3	Adequate	BBB		
Marginal	C+	Regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions	BB	Speculative	Ba1, Ba2, Ba3	Questionable	BB		
Weak	C		B CCC	Considered speculative	B	Weak	B		
Poor	D		CC C	Poor standing Highly Speculative	Caa Ca	Very Weak	CCC		
A plus (+) or minus (-) reflects gradation of financial strength in category.		Ratings may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating category.		Lowest Rated		C			
						Very Poor			C
						Default			D
						A plus (+) or minus (-) indicates upper and lower risk levels within the broader category.			