

003286 - Houston Casualty Company

Report Revision Date: 08/09/2013

| Rating and Commentary 1 | Financial ² | General Information ³ |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Best's Credit Rating: 09/26/2012 | Time Period: 2nd Quarter - 2013 | Corporate Structure: N/A |
| Rating Rationale: 09/26/2012 | Last Updated: 08/31/2013 | States Licensed: 11/23/2010 |
| Report Commentary: 08/09/2013 | Status: Quality Cross Checked | Officers and Directors: 08/09/2013 |
| Best's Credit Rating Methodology | <u>Disclaimer</u> | Best's Rating Guide |

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Company Overview
AMB Country Risk Reports - United States

Page 1 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

¹The Rating and Commentary date outlines the most recent updates to the Company's Rating, Rationale, and Report Commentary for key rating and business changes. Report commentary may include significant changes to Business Review, Financial Performance/Earnings, Capitalization, Investment/Liquidity, or Reinsurance sections of the report.

²The Financial date reflects the current status of the financial tables found within the body of the Report, including whether the data was loaded as received or had been run through our quality control cross-check process.

³The General Information date covers key areas that may have changed such as corporate structure, states licensed or officers and directors.



Ultimate Parent: HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc

Houston Casualty Company

13403 Northwest Freeway, Houston, Texas, United States 77040-2401

Tel.: 713-462-1000 **Web**: <u>www.hcc.com</u> **Fax**: 713-462-4210

Best's Credit Ratings

Best's Financial Strength Rating: A+ Outlook: Stable
Best's Issuer Credit Rating: aa Outlook: Stable

Rating Effective Date: 09/26/2012 Financial Size Category: XV

Report Revision Date: 08/09/2013

Rating Rationale

Rating Rationale: The ratings of the commercial casualty operations of HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. (HCC), have been extended to Houston Casualty Company based on its role and strategic importance to the group's overall strategy; common ownership; common management; the explicit and implicit parental support provided by HCC, including past capital contributions; and the implied support of future parental commitment.

The following text is derived from A.M. Best's Credit Report on Houston Casualty Group (AMB# 018421).

The ratings of Houston Casualty Company and its commercial casualty affiliates reflect their sustained profitability, strong level of capitalization, and solid liquidity while also recognizing the financial flexibility and support afforded by its publicly traded parent, HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. (HCC). The ratings are also indicative of A.M. Best's view of the group's near-term earnings prospects considering HCC's long-standing presence in the specialty property/casualty market, its low to moderate risk profile and its conservative investment strategy. Partially offsetting these positive rating factors is the recent adverse loss reserve development in the group's directors' and officers' and professional liability lines of business as well as the inland marine line of business. The outlooks reflect A.M. Best's expectation for continued underwriting and operating profitability over the near to medium term.

The ratings are supported by the group's proven underwriting expertise, along with its conservative investment and loss reserving strategies that have led to its long-term operating profitability. These attributes are also the primary drivers for the group's considerable balance sheet strength. Over the past several years, the group has produced consistently outstanding gross and net underwriting results leading to superior operating results despite the recent competitive challenges in the specialty admitted and surplus lines markets. HCC's success is largely driven by its business strategies, which have long focused on underwriting within defined commercial specialty lines, effective utilization of affiliated underwriting agencies / insurance intermediaries and the optimal utilization of reinsurance protection. The group utilizes high-quality reinsurers and employs a proactive approach to monitoring the quality of its reinsurance recoverables, including commuting recoverables when deemed prudent strategically.

The ratings also recognize HCC's improved overall capitalization, the result of strong earnings generation, and to a lesser extent, its low investment leverage. HCC liquidated its common stock portfolio by mid-2008, helping to limit its exposure to realized and unrealized investment losses at a time when the financial market crisis impaired investment results and negatively impacted balance sheet strength. In 2012, HCC diversified its investment portfolio by purchasing common stocks that equated to less than 4% of invested assets. Underwriting leverage has declined during the most recent calendar years as a result of a more than commensurate level of surplus appreciation. The group also remains exposed to large catastrophe losses due to its property and energy lines of business, and more recently its property treaty business, but on a net basis, catastrophe exposure is significantly moderated by the group's purchase of catastrophe reinsurance.

Page 2 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Rating Rationale (Continued ...)

Potential upward movement in the ratings is unlikely in the near term. Downward movement in the ratings could result from a material decline in the organization's capitalization, negative trends in claim frequency or severity that could materially impair underwriting results, as well as significant unforeseen adverse loss reserve development due to an underestimation of liabilities.

Five Year Rating History

| | BEST'S | | | | | |
|------------|--------|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Date | FSR | ICR | | | | |
| 09/26/2012 | A+ | aa | | | | |
| 08/10/2011 | A+ | aa | | | | |
| 10/15/2010 | A+ | aa- | | | | |
| 08/27/2009 | A+ | аа- | | | | |
| 07/30/2008 | A+ | аа- | | | | |
| 04/15/2008 | A+ | aa- | | | | |

View 25 Year Rating History

Key Financial Indicators

| | | Statutory Data (\$000) | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Period Ending | Premiums Direct | s Written Net | Pre-tax Operating Income | Net Income | Total Admitted Assets | Policyholder's Surplus | | | | | | |
| 2012 | 384,955 | 332,064 | 294,327 | 264,215 | 2,930,381 | 1,795,105 | | | | | | |
| 2011 | 370,683 | 337,015 | 241,910 | 229,395 | 2,911,655 | 1,699,002 | | | | | | |
| 2010 | 365,057 | 286,578 | 181,139 | 162,895 | 2,864,062 | 1,641,780 | | | | | | |
| 2009 | 415,161 | 307,348 | 259,912 | 209,526 | 2,904,654 | 1,567,730 | | | | | | |
| 2008 | 402,027 | 371,997 | 239,246 | 179,850 | 2,845,690 | 1,345,252 | | | | | | |
| 06/2013 | 215,009 | 178,287 | 66,648 | 49,937 | 3,098,029 | 1,944,103 | | | | | | |
| 06/2012 | 202,732 | 203,010 | 65,883 | 49,271 | 3,095,539 | 1,843,201 | | | | | | |

Page 3 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Key Financial Indicators (Continued ...)

| | | Profitability | | | Leverage | | Liquidity | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Period Ending | Combined Ratio | Investment Yield (%) | Pre-Tax ROR (%) | Non- Affiliated Investment Leverage | NPW to PHS | Net Leverage | Overall Liquidity (%) | Operating Cash-flow (%) | |
| 2012 | 78.2 | 8.4 | 87.3 | 11.3 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 259.2 | 164.3 | |
| 2011 | 95.9 | 9.1 | 76.6 | | 0.2 | 0.9 | 241.0 | 149.4 | |
| 2010 | 84.7 | 5.0 | 59.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 235.8 | 113.7 | |
| 2009 | 65.0 | 5.2 | 79.3 | | 0.2 | 1.0 | 220.2 | 129.5 | |
| 2008 | 76.3 | 5.4 | 60.1 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 194.6 | 147.7 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 5-Yr Avg | 79.6 | 6.6 | 72.4 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 06/2013 | 76.9 | 7.8 | 41.5 | 12.3 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 270.0 | 116.9 | |
| 06/2012 | 76.5 | 8.7 | 39.4 | 3.5 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 248.3 | 135.2 | |

^(*) Within several financial tables of this report, this company is compared against the Surplus Lines Composite.

Page 4 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

^(*) Data reflected within all tables of this report has been compiled from the company-filed statutory statement.



Business Profile

The following text is derived from A.M. Best's Credit Report on Houston Casualty Group (AMB# 018421).

The insurance companies comprising the HCC Insurance Group provide group life, accident and health, aviation, property, marine, energy, professional liability including directors' and officers' liability, surety and other specialty lines through the group's lead carrier, Houston Casualty Company (HC) and its affiliates. HC's operation includes those of a branch office in London, England.

The group's business is produced directly and through independent agents, brokers and third-party administrators on a worldwide basis. HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.'s (HCC) [NYSE: HCC] affiliated underwriting agencies act on behalf of both unaffiliated and affiliated insurance companies to provide insurance underwriting management and claim administration services. Aviation coverage is marketed to offshore operations, corporations, cargo operations, commuter airlines, governments and private aircraft owners on both a domestic and international basis. Facilities are currently dedicated to the handling of aircraft hull and liability insurance. In addition to conventional corporate and personal aircraft, the group covers specialty types, such as sport and antique airplanes, amphibians and seaplanes.

HCC provides accident and health coverage primarily through the group's affiliate HCC Life Insurance Company (HCC Life) that is marketed directly through unaffiliated agents, brokers and third-party administrators as well as directly through its affiliated underwriting agency HCC Medical Insurance Services, LLC (HCCMIS). Property coverage is provided to large multinational corporations through HC's London branch office. The London branch also underwrites marine hull and liability coverage for ocean-going vessels, as well as onshore and offshore energy coverage for large oil companies and drilling contractors. Many of the policy forms are tailored to meet the needs of the insured. Assumed reinsurance principally consists of accident and health reinsurance coverage, facultative aviation, and property and energy reinsurance issued by local companies in order to satisfy licensing requirements. Additionally, HCC began writing a property treaty reinsurance book in London in late 2009. Professional liability, including directors' and officers' liability is written through acquired underwriting agencies. Surety operations in the U.S. include contract surety bonds, commercial surety bonds and bail bonds written primarily through American Contractors Indemnity Company (ACIC), United States Surety Company (USSC), and U.S. Specialty Insurance Company (USSIC), and are managed together as part of the Company's U.S. Surety division. The company also writes surety business in the UK, Ireland and Spain through HCC Europe, Seguros y Reaseguros S.A. (HCCE), and HCC International Insurance Company PLC (HCCI).

In January of 2004, HCC sought to increase its specialty lines platform via the acquisition of Surety Associates Holdings Co., Inc., the parent company of ACIC. ACIC specializes in court, specialty contract, license and permit, and bail bonds. In February of 2005, HCC acquired USSC via the purchase of USSC Holdings, Inc., the privately held parent company of USSC. USSC is a Maryland-domiciled carrier specializing in writing surety bonds for small- to medium-sized contractors. HCC continued to expand its surety platform in 2007 through the acquisition of Colorado-based Ponderosa Management, Inc. which owned Pioneer General Insurance Company (PGIC), a specialty underwriter specializing in bail and civil bonds, and in 2009 through the acquisition of Surety Company of the Pacific (SCP), which specializes in California contractors' license and permit bonds. SCP and PGIC have both merged into ACIC.

Workers' compensation coverage had been written by the group through USSIC, but during 2001, management decided to exit this line of business due to loss ratio and expense issues that were adversely impacting profitability. In 2001, the affiliated underwriting agencies writing workers' compensation and aviation business were consolidated with USSIC's operations. In December 1999, HCC completed the acquisition of Centris, a leading provider of medical stop-loss coverage through Centris Life Insurance Company (Centris Life) and USBenefits Insurance Services, Inc. Subsequently, HCC contributed Centris Life to HC and renamed it HCC Life Insurance Company (HCC Life). Following the acquisition of the Centris Group, HCC became one of the largest providers of medical stop-loss coverage in the United States. Since 2003, the company has transferred medical stop-loss business from Avemco Insurance Company (AIC) to HCC Life. In 2002, HCC Specialty Insurance Company (HCCSpI) was also established as an Oklahoma-domiciled subsidiary of AIC. HCCSpI's purpose is to allow HCC to write surplus lines business in Texas that HC cannot write since it is a Texas-domiciled insurer. This business is 100% reinsured with HC.

HCC supplements the activities of its risk-bearing companies with underwriting agencies who write on behalf of its insurance carriers and, in certain situations, other non-affiliated companies. These organizations generate fee and commission income, including profit commissions, for the group while bearing no insurance risk. The principal agencies operating within HCC are HCC Global Financial Products, LLC (HCCG), HCC Indemnity Guaranty Agency, Inc. (HCCIG), HCC Specialty Underwriters, Inc. (HCCSU), Professional Indemnity Agency, Inc. (PIA) dba HCC Public Risk (HCCPR). HCC Underwriting Agency Ltd (HCCUA), and HCC Medical Insurance Services, LLC (HCCMIS). In 2010, HCC combined HCCSU, PIA, and HCCPR into its newly created underwriting division of HCC Specialty. The underwriting agencies specialize in the various lines of business written by the group's insurance carriers.

HCC has made numerous additional strategic transactions in recent years that have furthered its overall business strategy.

Page 5 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Business Profile (Continued ...)

In 2002, HCC acquired St. Paul Espana located in Madrid, Spain and thereafter was renamed HCC Europe. This company now primarily provides professional liability and surety coverage utilizing a very experienced management team.

In 2005, HCC acquired the remaining 66% of De Montfort Group Limited that it did not own. The key operating subsidiary of De Montfort Group was De Montfort Insurance Company PLC (DMI), a provider of surety and credit insurance in the United Kingdom, allowing the group to further enhance its diversified financial product platform and its geographic base. In 2005, DMI was renamed HCC International Insurance Company PLC.

Late in 2005, the company acquired Perico, Ltd., a medical stop-loss insurance underwriting agency domiciled in St. Louis, Missouri, and MIC Life Insurance Corporation (MIC), a Delaware-domiciled company. MIC was renamed Perico Life Insurance Company (PLIC) and was relocated to Missouri. In June of 2006, the company acquired Novia Underwriters, Inc., an underwriting agency based in Indianapolis, Indiana, that specialized in medical stop-loss insurance. Novia's business has since been absorbed into Perico Life Insurance Company (PLIC). Effective July 1, 2011, PLIC began merging its operations with HCC Life. The combination of the two companies, expected to take place over a period of twelve to eighteen months, will better allow HCC Life to improve its efficiencies and better utilize its capital. As a result of this merger, all medical stop-loss in force policies and underwriting requests will be directed to HCC Life.

In 2006, the company acquired G.B. Kenrick & Associates, Inc., a Michigan-based underwriting agency specifically focused on public entity insurance and in 2008 expanded its public entity sector presence through the acquisition of two small underwriting operations, all now under the HCC Specialty division.

Also in 2006, HCC acquired the assets of the Health Products division of Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America. This entity's business includes medical stop-loss and medical excess insurance. HCC acquired Multinational Underwriters, LLC (MNU) in January 2008 which changed its name to HCC Medical Insurance Services, LLC (HCCMIS) in 2009. HCCMIS is an underwriting agency based in Indianapolis, Indiana. In November and December 2008, HCC acquired C W Midwest, Inc. dba Cox Insurance Group, a medical stop-loss underwriting agency whose business was absorbed by PLIC.

Scope of Operations

Total Premium Composition & Growth Analysis

| Period | Direct Premiums Written | | Reinsurance P Assume | | Reinsurance P Ceded | | Net Premiums Written | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|--|
| Ending | (\$000) | (%Chg) | (\$000) | (%Chg) | (\$000) | (%Chg) | (\$000) | (%Chg) | |
| 2012 | 384,955 | 3.9 | 151,853 | 2.3 | 204,745 | 12.4 | 332,064 | -1.5 | |
| 2011 | 370,683 | 1.5 | 148,421 | -0.3 | 182,088 | -19.9 | 337,015 | 17.6 | |
| 2010 | 365,057 | -12.1 | 148,815 | 19.8 | 227,294 | -2.0 | 286,578 | -6.8 | |
| 2009 | 415,161 | 3.3 | 124,220 | -32.6 | 232,032 | 8.2 | 307,348 | -17.4 | |
| 2008 | 402,027 | 4.9 | 184,404 | -34.4 | 214,434 | -10.5 | 371,997 | -12.4 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 5-Yr CAGR | | 0.1 | | -11.6 | | -3.1 | | -4.8 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 06/2013 | 215,009 | 6.1 | 86,184 | -16.1 | 122,905 | 19.9 | 178,287 | -12.2 | |
| 06/2012 | 202,732 | 0.2 | 102,760 | 10.1 | 102,482 | 3.7 | 203,010 | 3.1 | |

Territory

The company is licensed in Texas. It also operates on a surplus lines or non-admitted basis in the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI and WY.

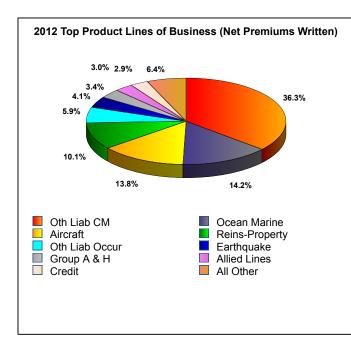
Page 6 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

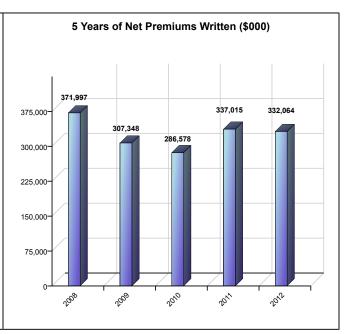


Business Trends

2012 By-Line Business (\$000)

| | Direct Premi Written | | Reinsurance Premiums Assumed | | Reinsurance Premiums Ceded | | Net Premiums Written | | Business Retention |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Product Line | (\$000) | (%) | (\$000) | (%) | (\$000) | (%) | (\$000) | (%) | % |
| Oth Liab CM | 135,848 | 35.3 | 10,624 | 7.0 | 26,054 | 12.7 | 120,418 | 36.3 | 82.2 |
| Ocean Marine | 89,388 | 23.2 | 5,767 | 3.8 | 47,871 | 23.4 | 47,284 | 14.2 | 49.7 |
| Aircraft | 13,782 | 3.6 | 55,170 | 36.3 | 22,998 | 11.2 | 45,954 | 13.8 | 66.6 |
| Reins-Property | | | 43,210 | 28.5 | 9,785 | 4.8 | 33,424 | 10.1 | 77.4 |
| Oth Liab Occur | 34,955 | 9.1 | 2,198 | 1.4 | 17,708 | 8.6 | 19,445 | 5.9 | 52.3 |
| Earthquake | 17,444 | 4.5 | 4,309 | 2.8 | 8,161 | 4.0 | 13,593 | 4.1 | 62.5 |
| Group A & H | 685 | 0.2 | 11,187 | 7.4 | 667 | 0.3 | 11,205 | 3.4 | 94.4 |
| Allied Lines | 9,204 | 2.4 | 5,326 | 3.5 | 4,614 | 2.3 | 9,917 | 3.0 | 68.2 |
| Credit | 9,725 | 2.5 | 586 | 0.4 | 695 | 0.3 | 9,615 | 2.9 | 93.3 |
| All Other | 73,925 | 19.2 | 13,477 | 8.9 | 66,192 | 32.3 | 21,210 | 6.4 | 25.0 |
| Total | 384,955 | 100.0 | 151,853 | 100.0 | 204,745 | 100.0 | 332,064 | 100.0 | 62.9 |





Page 7 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Business Trends (Continued ...)

By-Line Reserve (\$000)

| Product Line | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Oth Liab CM | 443,145 | 479,348 | 470,377 | 493,324 | 488,446 |
| Ocean Marine | 35,109 | 50,440 | 51,614 | 75,757 | 108,370 |
| Aircraft | 35,883 | 31,533 | 27,141 | 29,911 | 34,487 |
| Reins-Property | 8,632 | 10,850 | | | 22 |
| Oth Liab Occur | 44,193 | 47,535 | 71,436 | 37,674 | 53,017 |
| Earthquake | 7,612 | -5,770 | 4,894 | 2,928 | -1,091 |
| Group A & H | 138,633 | 185,102 | 240,744 | 262,197 | 309,284 |
| Allied Lines | 12,057 | 13,249 | 9,533 | 20,190 | 23,505 |
| Credit | 12,511 | 12,181 | 4,954 | 4,864 | 11,345 |
| All Other | 46,013 | 61,144 | 36,410 | 67,947 | 90,963 |
| Total | 783,787 | 885,612 | 917,103 | 994,792 | 1,118,349 |

Market Share / Market Presence

Geographical Breakdown By Direct Premium Writings (\$000)

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| California | 74,262 | 66,958 | 59,453 | 69,742 | 66,808 |
| Texas | 40,915 | 42,231 | 40,112 | 35,775 | 27,109 |
| Louisiana | 39,655 | 51,578 | 49,284 | 49,168 | 56,289 |
| New York | 24,236 | 21,664 | 23,300 | 27,648 | 24,001 |
| Aggregate Alien | 23,447 | 22,439 | 23,664 | 32,683 | 32,144 |
| Florida | 15,858 | 14,712 | 12,175 | 13,296 | 15,810 |
| Minnesota | 13,116 | 3,557 | 4,535 | 4,182 | 6,061 |
| Pennsylvania | 12,639 | 13,267 | 12,836 | 15,574 | 15,806 |
| Illinois | 12,488 | 12,226 | 11,277 | 11,573 | 11,019 |
| Massachusetts | 8,589 | 9,736 | 8,391 | 9,255 | 9,076 |
| All Other | 119,750 | 112,314 | 120,029 | 146,266 | 137,904 |
| Total | 384,955 | 370,683 | 365,057 | 415,161 | 402,027 |

Page 8 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Risk Management

The following text is derived from A.M. Best's Credit Report on Houston Casualty Group (AMB# 018421).

HCC's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) process is very well-developed, assessing the organization's risks systematically and determining the most appropriate responses to them. The company's Internal Risk Committee is responsible for the ongoing enhancement and integration of the ERM process throughout the organization. From clash reports to disaster recovery plans, the company's ERM efforts have become central to its strategic operation.

<u>Catastrophe Exposure & Management:</u> Maintaining sufficient reinsurance to support the catastrophe portion of its portfolio, as well as limiting its exposure in any one class of business, is an integral part of the group's business strategy. Various domestic and foreign reinsurers are utilized in order to limit the group's credit risk to any particular reinsurer. In addition, management has positioned the group to be able to increase the utilization of reinsurance as market conditions warrant, while maintaining a solid balance sheet to support increased retention of premium when reinsurance capacity lessens. A specific reinsurance program is structured for each line of business. Over the last decade, the group has significantly reduced its ceded business, going from ceding almost two-thirds of its gross unaffiliated book of business to less than one-third. This strategic change has been undertaken to increase retentions, capitalize on the rising rates and improved market conditions, and manage reinsurance costs.

Despite the reduction, the utilization of reinsurance to mitigate the group's exposure to any one event leaves it exposed to the impact of changes in the reinsurance sector, including but not limited to pricing behavior, credit risk and dispute risk. As such, management remains highly attuned to activity in the reinsurance market sector seeking to ensure that the group remains aligned with financially strong reinsurance partners. The focus on maintaining solid partnerships has led to the commutation of recoverables when circumstances determined it to be the best strategic option. A.M. Best expects the group to continue managing its level of reinsurance recoverables effectively and to pro-actively address recoverables from reinsurers whose financial strength becomes weakened to any material degree.

Page 9 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Operating Performance

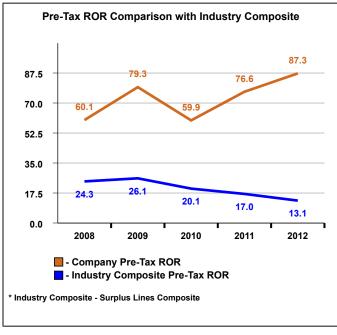
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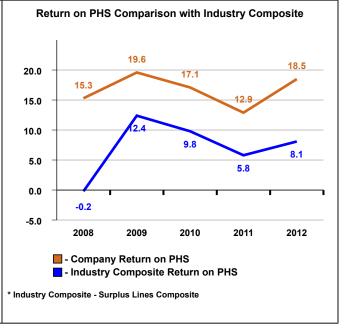
Operating Results: On a five-year basis, the group's pre-tax and after-tax returns substantially surpass the average produced by the industry composite. This level of performance is driven by the group's underwriting discipline, expense ratio advantage and the sizeable income garnered from its high quality investment portfolio. Despite overall market softening that has caused margin compression in recent years, the group has focused on specific lines of business it feels still offer profit potential. These more desirable lines of business have included the surety, medical stop loss, offshore energy and aviation lines of business. Increased net investment income generated by the group's growing, conservative portfolio has also helped drive profits.

A.M. Best believes the group will continue to generate solid earnings because of its diversification and ability to focus on lines of business less impacted by market pressures as well as the improved pricing environment exhibited over the past year. Considering the group's successful history in managing the cycle and its steadfast application of conservative operating fundamentals, A.M. Best believes operating results will remain favorable.

Profitability Analysis

| | | | | Industry Composite | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------|------|--------------------|
| Period Ending | Pre-tax Operating Income | After-tax Operating Income | Net Income | Total Return | Pre- Tax ROR | Return on PHS | Operating Ratio | | | Operating Ratio |
| 2012 | 294,327 | 256,973 | 264,215 | 323,719 | 87.3 | 18.5 | 13.1 | 13.1 | 8.1 | 88.9 |
| 2011 | 241,910 | 227,010 | 229,395 | 215,910 | 76.6 | 12.9 | 21.8 | 17.0 | 5.8 | 82.5 |
| 2010 | 181,139 | 153,320 | 162,895 | 274,678 | 59.9 | 17.1 | 41.8 | 20.1 | 9.8 | 79.5 |
| 2009 | 259,912 | 210,073 | 209,526 | 286,113 | 79.3 | 19.6 | 23.6 | 26.1 | 12.4 | 74.2 |
| 2008 | 239,246 | 187,433 | 179,850 | 198,803 | 60.1 | 15.3 | 42.1 | 24.3 | -0.2 | 76.3 |
| 5-Yr Avg/Tot | 1,216,533 | 1,034,809 | 1,045,880 | 1,299,223 | 72.4 | 16.7 | 28.8 | 20.1 | 7.3 | 80.4 |
| 06/2013 | 66,648 | 48,031 | 49,937 | 147,508 | 41.5 | 17.3 | 56.3 | XX | XX | XX |
| 06/2012 | 65,883 | 46,279 | 49,271 | 143,891 | 39.4 | 13.6 | 55.5 | XX | XX | XX |





Page 10 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Underwriting Results

<u>Underwriting Results:</u> Over the last five years, the group's underwriting performance has been very strong as evidenced by a combined ratio during that period that is significantly better than that of the industry composite. A distinct loss ratio advantage, relative to the composite, has led to the well above-average historical underwriting performance. Solid results in core lines of business, partially offset by less favorable performance on the discontinued lines of business, drive the long-term favorable underwriting results. While still profitable, the group's combined ratio did increase in 2011 as a result of adverse loss reserve development in the directors' and officers' and professional liability lines of business as well as the inland marine line of business. The positive development during 2012 was primarily due to a re-estimation of unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses, for principally the directors' and officers' and professional liability lines of business as well as the inland marine line of business.

With competitive market pressures compressing profit margins on certain lines of coverage on specialty admitted and surplus lines business, in recent years, the group has increased retentions on lines such as professional liability, aviation, and energy where business written has proven to be profitable. The group's combined ratio has historically benefitted from a large amount of ceding commission that has largely offset commissions paid on direct and assumed business. Increasing net retentions, however, have tempered the positive impact of ceding commissions in recent years. A.M. Best expects HCC's long-held underwriting discipline to allow the group to sustain the favorable underwriting and operating results even as segments of the market face greater price competition.

Underwriting Experience

| | | Loss Ratios | | | Ex | oense Ratio | os | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------|------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Year | Net Undrw Income (\$000) | Pure Loss | LAE | Loss & LAE | Net Comm | Other Exp. | Total Exp. | Div. Pol. | Comb. Ratio |
| 2012 | 74,998 | 35.1 | 15.0 | 50.1 | 17.1 | 10.9 | 28.0 | | 78.2 |
| 2011 | 7,483 | 47.7 | 22.4 | 70.1 | 16.2 | 9.6 | 25.8 | | 95.9 |
| 2010 | 50,939 | 35.9 | 20.5 | 56.4 | 19.4 | 8.8 | 28.3 | | 84.7 |
| 2009 | 120,828 | 19.0 | 17.1 | 36.1 | 20.9 | 7.9 | 28.9 | | 65.0 |
| 2008 | 101,864 | 36.7 | 11.3 | 48.0 | 22.0 | 6.2 | 28.2 | | 76.3 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 5-Yr Avg | 356,113 | 34.9 | 16.9 | 51.8 | 19.2 | 8.7 | 27.8 | | 79.6 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 06/2013 | 33,220 | 38.0 | 17.0 | 55.0 | XX | XX | 21.9 | | 76.9 |
| 06/2012 | 30,529 | 34.4 | 17.8 | 52.2 | XX | XX | 24.3 | | 76.5 |

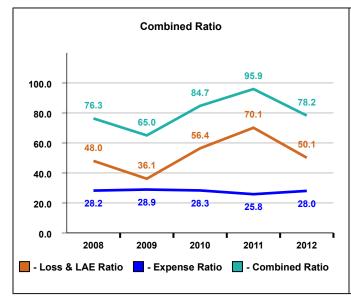
Page 11 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

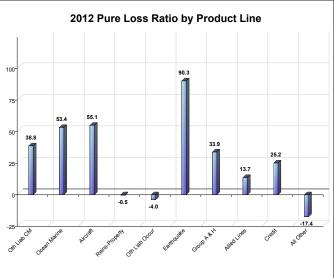


Underwriting Results (Continued ...)

Loss Ratio By Line

| Product Line | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 5-Yr. Avg. |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| Oth Liab CM | 38.8 | 57.7 | 38.2 | 23.3 | 25.2 | 34.8 |
| Ocean Marine | 53.4 | 9.8 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 60.3 | 27.5 |
| Aircraft | 55.1 | 55.8 | 59.0 | 49.3 | 54.4 | 54.9 |
| Reins-Property | -0.5 | 53.4 | | 999.9 | | 21.3 |
| Oth Liab Occur | -4.0 | -99.9 | 999.9 | -99.9 | 44.7 | 74.5 |
| Earthquake | 90.3 | -99.9 | 27.5 | 88.8 | -99.9 | 5.2 |
| Group A & H | 33.9 | 25.1 | 54.6 | 76.8 | 3.2 | 42.4 |
| Allied Lines | 13.7 | 125.7 | -99.9 | -99.9 | 87.5 | -12.5 |
| Credit | 25.2 | 43.9 | 93.0 | 61.3 | 43.9 | 50.2 |
| All Other | -17.4 | 155.5 | -99.9 | -56.5 | 58.7 | 23.2 |
| Total | 35.1 | 47.7 | 35.9 | 19.0 | 36.7 | 34.9 |





Page 12 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Underwriting Results (Continued ...)

Direct Loss Ratios By State

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 5-Yr. Avg. |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| California | 14.2 | 74.2 | 43.1 | 36.5 | 3.2 | 33.5 |
| Texas | -7.7 | 44.6 | 86.9 | 21.7 | 228.1 | 68.6 |
| Louisiana | 7.1 | 53.1 | -8.2 | 64.0 | 132.2 | 53.4 |
| New York | 122.2 | 109.3 | 36.8 | 28.9 | 69.2 | 72.1 |
| Aggregate Alien | 87.3 | -99.9 | 45.5 | 38.8 | -32.7 | -4.2 |
| Florida | 73.9 | 112.1 | 69.7 | 17.3 | 43.8 | 62.0 |
| Minnesota | -3.5 | -99.9 | -50.4 | 374.4 | -99.9 | -57.4 |
| Pennsylvania | -6.1 | 93.4 | 50.3 | -19.2 | 127.6 | 45.1 |
| Illinois | -1.4 | 100.0 | 40.8 | 15.2 | -99.9 | -27.9 |
| Massachusetts | 60.8 | 114.4 | -49.0 | 70.6 | -99.9 | 18.2 |
| All Other | 28.5 | 53.7 | 51.5 | -7.6 | 45.8 | 33.2 |
| Total | 29.4 | 48.1 | 41.5 | 25.2 | 43.3 | 37.3 |

Investment Results

Investment Results: The group's higher retentions, the increase in the payout period for claims due to the writing of more longer-tail business, and the impact of reinsurance commutations have combined to produce solid operating cash flows in recent years. These cash flows have driven notable growth in both the invested asset base and net investment income. The group's invested asset portfolio is predominately concentrated in high-quality fixed-income securities, with an emphasis on municipal bonds, asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities, corporate bonds and to a lesser extent, treasury securities. The predominant portion of the group's investment leverage stemmed from its common stock holdings of affiliated companies and will remain as such given the group's business model and related business strategies. In 2012, the group diversified its investment portfolio by purchasing unaffiliated common stocks that equated to less than 4% of invested assets. The group's investment leverage remains conservative compared to industry composite norms. The portfolio has produced an average investment yield above the industry composite average.

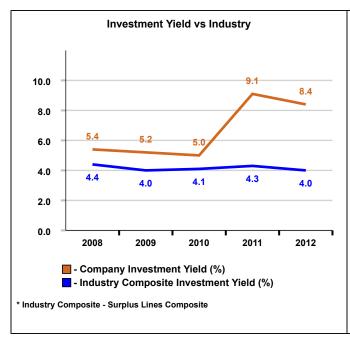
Page 13 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

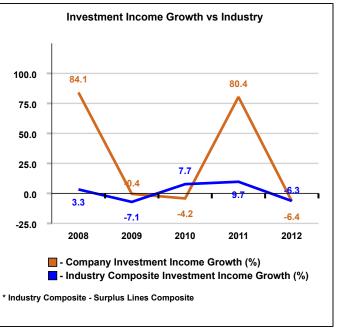


Investment Results (Continued ...)

Investment Gains (\$000)

| | | | Co | mpany | | | | Industry C | omposite |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Year | Net Investment Income (\$000) | Realized Capital Gains (\$000) | Unrealized Capital Gains (\$000) | Investment Income Growth (%) | Investment Yield (%) | Return on Invested Assets (%) | Total Return (%) | Investment Income Growth (%) | Investment Yield (%) |
| 2012 | 219,086 | 7,241 | 59,504 | -6.4 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 11.0 | -6.3 | 4.0 |
| 2011 | 234,075 | 2,385 | -13,484 | 80.4 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 8.7 | 9.7 | 4.3 |
| 2010 | 129,750 | 9,575 | 111,783 | -4.2 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 9.8 | 7.7 | 4.1 |
| 2009 | 135,508 | -547 | 76,587 | -0.4 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 8.3 | -7.1 | 4.0 |
| 2008 | 136,045 | -7,584 | 18,953 | 84.1 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.9 | 3.3 | 4.4 |
| 5-Yr Avg/Tot | 854,464 | 11,071 | 253,343 | 20.5 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 8.8 | 1.2 | 4.1 |
| 06/2013 | 33,190 | 1,905 | 97,571 | -5.7 | 7.8 | 8.1 | 10.4 | XX | XX |
| 06/2012 | 35,214 | 2,992 | 94,620 | 5.0 | 8.7 | 8.9 | 8.2 | XX | XX |





Page 14 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Balance Sheet Strength

Capitalization

The following text is derived from A.M. Best's Credit Report on Houston Casualty Group (AMB# 018421).

<u>Capitalization:</u> The group's capital position has always remained supportive of its rating, as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio (BCAR). The considerable appreciation in the group's policyholders' surplus over the last several years has been driven primarily by operating earnings and both realized and unrealized gains. Growth in policyholders' surplus has been constrained somewhat by dividends paid to the parent company. Excellent operating results in recent years have enabled capitalization to adequately support the group's business risks. Despite the challenging market and limited opportunities for profitable top line growth, the group's earnings have benefited from a fairly stable level of earned premiums due in part to increased premium retentions.

Until recently, the strong cash flow of HCC's underwriting agencies has historically been enough to cover the operating and dividend requirements of the holding company. As underwriting agencies have been combined with insurance companies, the company now takes regular dividends from HCC's insurance company subsidiaries. A.M. Best does not anticipate the level of dividends paid by the group's insurance companies to the parent to materially weaken the capitalization of these subsidiaries.

Capital Generation Analysis (\$000)

| | | | S | ource of Surp | olus Growth | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Year | Pre-tax Operating Income | Realized Capital Gains | Income Taxes | Unrealized Capital Gains | Net Contributed Capital | Other Changes | Change in PHS | % Change in PHS |
| 2012 | 294,327 | 7,241 | 37,353 | 59,504 | -227,937 | 321 | 96,103 | 5.7 |
| 2011 | 241,910 | 2,385 | 14,900 | -13,484 | -163,755 | 5,066 | 57,222 | 3.5 |
| 2010 | 181,139 | 9,575 | 27,819 | 111,783 | -208,352 | 7,723 | 74,050 | 4.7 |
| 2009 | 259,912 | -547 | 49,839 | 76,587 | -93,719 | 30,086 | 222,479 | 16.5 |
| 2008 | 239,246 | -7,584 | 51,812 | 18,953 | -84,175 | -29,583 | 85,044 | 6.7 |
| 5-Yr Total | 1,216,533 | 11,071 | 181,724 | 253,343 | -777,938 | 13,612 | 534,898 | 7.3 |
| 06/2013 | 66,648 | 1,905 | 18,616 | 97,571 | 96 | 1,393 | 148,998 | 8.3 |
| 06/2012 | 65,883 | 2,992 | 19,604 | 94,620 | 370 | -62 | 144,199 | 8.5 |

Quality of Surplus (\$000)

| Year | Surplus Notes | Other Debt | Contributed Capital | Unassigned Surplus | Year End Policyholders Surplus | Conditional Reserves | Adjusted Policyholders Surplus |
|---------|------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2012 | | | 577,235 | 1,217,870 | 1,795,105 | 4,932 | 1,800,038 |
| 2011 | | | 584,259 | 1,114,743 | 1,699,002 | 4,670 | 1,703,672 |
| 2010 | | | 583,642 | 1,058,138 | 1,641,780 | 7,663 | 1,649,443 |
| 2009 | | | 583,307 | 984,423 | 1,567,730 | 17,986 | 1,585,717 |
| 2008 | | | 574,004 | 771,248 | 1,345,252 | 38,414 | 1,383,665 |
| 06/2013 | | | 577,332 | 1,366,771 | 1,944,103 | 6,336 | 1,950,439 |
| 06/2012 | | | 576,148 | 1,267,052 | 1,843,201 | 5,714 | 1,848,915 |

Page 15 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

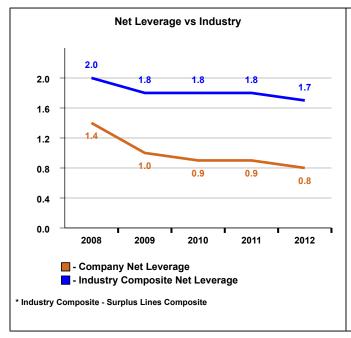


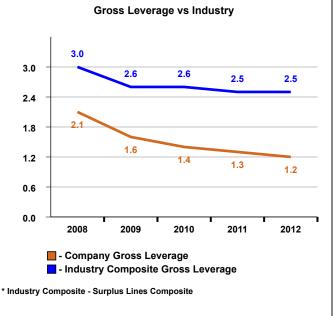
Underwriting Leverage

Leverage Analysis

| | | Comp | oany | | Industry Composite | | | | |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Year | NPW to PHS | Reserves to PHS | Net Leverage | Gross Leverage | NPW to PHS | Reserves to PHS | Net Leverage | Gross Leverage | |
| 2012 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 2.5 | |
| 2011 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 2.5 | |
| 2010 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 2.6 | |
| 2009 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 2.6 | |
| 2008 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | |
| 06/2013 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | |
| 06/2012 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.9 | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | |

Current BCAR: 291.3





Page 16 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Underwriting Leverage (Continued ...)

Ceded Reinsurance Analysis (\$000)

| | | Com | pany | Industry Composite | | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Year | Ceded Reinsurance TotalBusiness Retention (%)Reinsurance Recoverables to PHS (%)Reinsurance Reinsurance to PHS (%) | | | | Business Retention (%) | Reinsurance Recoverables to PHS (%) | Ceded Reinsurance to PHS (%) | |
| 2012 | 685,355 | 62.9 | 26.8 | 38.2 | 42.9 | 56.4 | 80.4 | |
| 2011 | 721,859 | 65.1 | 31.8 | 42.5 | 49.5 | 56.7 | 78.3 | |
| 2010 | 819,811 | 56.9 | 36.1 | 49.9 | 51.1 | 57.5 | 78.8 | |
| 2009 | 943,102 | 57.5 | 45.4 | 60.2 | 44.4 | 63.9 | 86.4 | |
| 2008 | 1,019,242 | 64.0 | 59.8 | 75.8 | 46.0 | 75.2 | 99.9 | |

2012 Reinsurance Recoverables (\$000)

| | Paid & Unpaid Losses | Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) Losses | Unearned Premiums | Other Recoverables * | Total Reinsurance Recoverables |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| US Affiliates | 402 | | | | 402 |
| Foreign Affiliates | 2,748 | 27 | 18,264 | -22,730 | -1,691 |
| US Insurers | 85,232 | 91,208 | 42,562 | 655 | 219,657 |
| Pools/Associations | | | | | |
| Other Non-Us | 151,713 | 62,175 | 49,577 | -820 | 262,645 |
| Total(ex Us Affils) | 239,693 | 153,410 | 110,403 | -22,895 | 480,611 |
| Grand Total | 240,095 | 153,410 | 110,403 | -22,895 | 481,013 |

^{*} Includes Commissions less Funds Withheld

Loss Reserves

Loss Reserves: On both a calendar year and accident year basis, the group has historically reported favorable loss reserve development. However, deficiencies were reported in accident years 2008 - 2010 as a result of the recent increase in reserves for the diversified financial products (DFP) line of business in the group's professional liability segment, which provides coverage for private equity partnerships, hedge funds and investment managers. These reserve changes resulted primarily from revised assumptions with regards to the frequency and severity of claims. Favorable reserve development returned in 2012, as redundancies were experienced in most segments, partially offset by strengthening in the Public Risk and International Surety segments. A.M. Best expects the group's reserve development pattern to be more reflective of the favorable historical norms over the near term.

Page 17 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Loss Reserves (Continued ...)

Loss and ALAE Reserve Development: Calendar Year (\$000)

| Calendar Year | Original Loss Reserves | Developed Reserves Thru 2012 | Development to Original (%) | Development to PHS (%) | Development to NPE (%) | Unpaid Reserves @ 12/2012 | Unpaid Reserves to Development (%) |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 2012 | 780,367 | 780,367 | | | 231.6 | 780,367 | 100.0 |
| 2011 | 882,049 | 853,385 | -3.2 | -1.7 | 270.1 | 615,592 | 72.1 |
| 2010 | 913,092 | 899,232 | -1.5 | -0.8 | 297.2 | 485,724 | 54.0 |
| 2009 | 989,579 | 953,980 | -3.6 | -2.3 | 290.9 | 394,740 | 41.4 |
| 2008 | 1,109,281 | 940,652 | -15.2 | -12.5 | 236.3 | 339,119 | 36.1 |
| 2007 | 1,148,496 | 913,429 | -20.5 | -18.7 | 201.4 | 278,163 | 30.5 |

Loss and ALAE Reserve Development: Accident Year (\$000)

| Accident Year | Original Loss Reserves | Developed Reserves Thru 2012 | Development to Original (%) | Unpaid Reserves @ 12/2012 | Accident Year Loss Ratio | Accident Year Comb. Ratio |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2012 | 164,775 | 164,775 | | 164,775 | 58.1 | 86.1 |
| 2011 | 177,561 | 175,690 | -1.1 | 129,868 | 66.0 | 91.8 |
| 2010 | 153,179 | 167,350 | 9.3 | 90,984 | 63.4 | 91.7 |
| 2009 | 150,675 | 216,962 | 44.0 | 55,621 | 78.1 | 107.0 |
| 2008 | 222,892 | 222,050 | -0.4 | 60,956 | 64.2 | 92.4 |
| 2007 | 227,559 | 189,730 | -16.6 | 50,485 | 48.3 | 76.3 |

Liquidity

The following text is derived from A.M. Best's Credit Report on Houston Casualty Group (AMB# 018421).

<u>Liquidity:</u> The group maintains a sound liquidity position as evidenced by current and overall liquidity ratios that exceed industry composite averages. The level of invested assets has increased significantly over the last five years, more than offsetting the growth in total liabilities stemming from higher loss reserves. Operating cash flow, driven primarily by increased investment income, remains solid. Historically, the group's adequate liquidity position has been derived from consistent operating cash flow and contributed capital from the parent holding company with solid investment income also contributing.

The parent filed a universal shelf registration in March 2012 that expires in March 2015. The shelf registration statement provides for the issuance of an aggregate of \$1.0 billion of securities that helps provide the group with greater financial flexibility. These securities may be debt securities, equity securities, or a combination thereof.

HCC maintains a \$600 million revolving loan facility, of which \$320 million of available capacity remained as of March 31, 2013. HCC uses this facility to fund repurchases of its common stock. The parent also has a \$90 million standby letter of credit facility that is used to guarantee the performance of its Lloyd's of London syndicate. The revolving loan facility expires in 2015, and the standby facility expires in 2016.

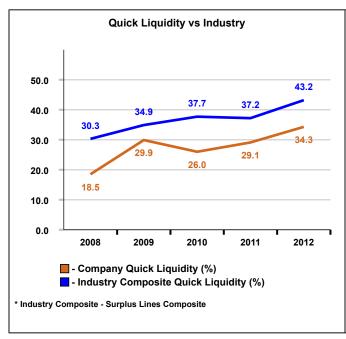
Page 18 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

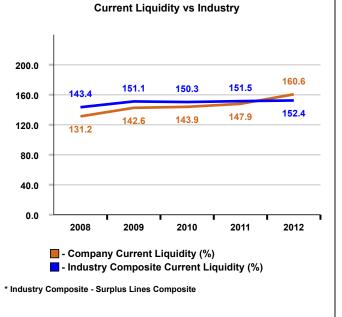


Liquidity (Continued ...)

Liquidity Analysis

| | | Comp | oany | | Industry Composite | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--|
| Year | Quick Liquidity (%) | Current Liquidity (%) | Overall Liquidity (%) | Gross Agents Balances to PHS(%) | Quick Liquidity (%) | Current Liquidity (%) | Overall Liquidity (%) | Gross Agents Balances to PHS (%) | |
| 2012 | 34.3 | 160.6 | 259.2 | 3.6 | 43.2 | 152.4 | 173.2 | 8.9 | |
| 2011 | 29.1 | 147.9 | 241.0 | 6.5 | 37.2 | 151.5 | 171.9 | 8.3 | |
| 2010 | 26.0 | 143.9 | 235.8 | 5.0 | 37.7 | 150.3 | 169.7 | 8.1 | |
| 2009 | 29.9 | 142.6 | 220.2 | 5.8 | 34.9 | 151.1 | 172.4 | 8.7 | |
| 2008 | 18.5 | 131.2 | 194.6 | 9.4 | 30.3 | 143.4 | 165.4 | 9.6 | |
| 06/2013 | XX | 158.6 | 270.0 | 4.3 | XX | XX | XX | XX | |
| 06/2012 | XX | 149.2 | 248.3 | 6.8 | XX | XX | XX | XX | |





Page 19 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Liquidity (Continued ...)

Cash Flow Analysis (\$000)

| | | | Company | | | Industry Co | omposite |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year | Underwriting Cash Flow | Operating Cash Flow | Net Cash Flow | Underwriting Cash Flow (%) | Operating Cash Flow (%) | Underwriting Cash Flow (%) | Operating Cash Flow (%) |
| 2012 | 33,028 | 233,256 | 25,812 | 110.0 | 164.3 | 93.0 | 109.4 |
| 2011 | -41,607 | 180,554 | -30,084 | 87.9 | 149.4 | 91.1 | 110.9 |
| 2010 | -36,238 | 52,306 | -38,915 | 89.0 | 113.7 | 140.2 | 156.0 |
| 2009 | 5,315 | 114,162 | 4,774 | 101.5 | 129.5 | 104.7 | 127.8 |
| 2008 | 75,298 | 170,052 | -92,310 | 124.4 | 147.7 | 121.5 | 133.0 |
| 5-Yr Total | 35,797 | 750,330 | -130,722 | | | | |
| 06/2013 | 9,476 | 27,674 | 8,512 | 106.6 | 116.9 | XX | XX |
| 06/2012 | 27,856 | 57,457 | 43,720 | 118.2 | 135.2 | XX | XX |

Investments

Investment Leverage Analysis (% of PHS)

| | | Industry Composite | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Year | Class 3-6 Bonds | Real Estate / Mortgages | Other Invested Assets | Common Stock | Non - Affiliated Investment Leverage | Affiliated Investments | Class 3-6 Bonds | Common Stock |
| 2012 | 3.6 | | | 7.7 | 11.3 | 54.2 | 5.4 | 22.2 |
| 2011 | | | | | | 53.9 | 3.8 | 18.9 |
| 2010 | 0.1 | | | | 0.1 | 56.6 | 3.3 | 17.0 |
| 2009 | | | | | | 52.1 | 3.5 | 15.3 |
| 2008 | | | 2.6 | | 2.6 | 51.7 | 2.7 | 10.3 |

Investments - Bond Portfolio

2012 Distribution By Maturity

| | | Years | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | 0-1 | 1-5 | 5-10 | 10-20 | 20+ | Years Average Maturity | | | |
| Government | 4.1 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 3.6 | | | |
| Government Agencies & Muni. | 5.2 | 28.5 | 16.4 | 8.3 | 4.1 | 7.0 | | | |
| Industrial & Misc. | 3.1 | 8.9 | 15.2 | | | 5.2 | | | |
| Total | 12.5 | 41.3 | 33.1 | 8.9 | 4.2 | 6.2 | | | |

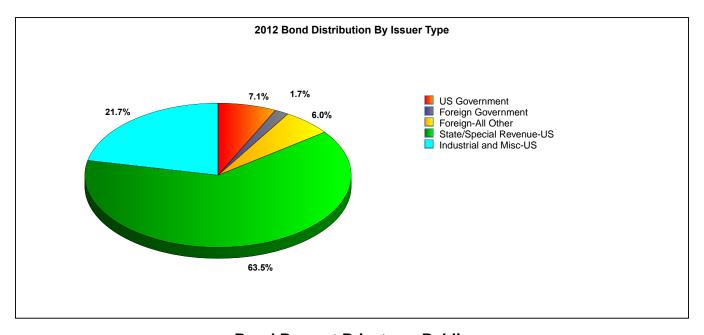
Page 20 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Investments - Bond Portfolio (Continued ...)

Bond Distribution By Issuer Type

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Bonds (000) | 1,599,177 | 1,745,495 | 1,672,618 | 1,771,616 | 1,724,891 |
| US Government | 7.1 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 7.4 | 2.8 |
| Foreign Government | 1.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | | |
| Foreign-All Other | 6.0 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 2.2 | 1.1 |
| State/Special Revenue-US | 63.5 | 66.6 | 68.8 | 69.6 | 70.0 |
| Industrial and Misc-US | 21.7 | 19.3 | 16.8 | 20.7 | 26.1 |



Bond Percent Private vs Public

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|----------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Private Issues | 7.9 | 0.8 | | | |
| Public Issues | 92.1 | 99.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Bond Quality Percent

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Class 1 | 93.0 | 97.3 | 98.1 | 97.8 | 97.7 |
| Class 2 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Class 3 | 3.0 | | 0.1 | | |
| Class 4 | 0.9 | | | | |
| Class 5 | | | | | |

Page 21 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Investments - Equity Portfolio

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Stocks(000) | 1,104,287 | 907,547 | 921,065 | 808,267 | 687,076 |
| Unaffiliated Common | 12.5 | | | | |
| Affiliated Common | 87.5 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Unaffiliated Preferred | | | | | |

Investments - Mortgage Loans And Real Estate

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mortgage Loans and Real Estate (000) | 7,372 | 7,906 | 8,001 | 8,648 | 9,066 |
| Property Occupied by Company | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Investments - Other Invested Assets

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Other Invested Assets(000) | 41,613 | 15,699 | 46,012 | 85,634 | 168,643 |
| Cash | 39.9 | 64.4 | 18.6 | 43.1 | 12.5 |
| Short-Term | 59.4 | 34.4 | 80.6 | 55.6 | 34.7 |
| Schedule BA Assets | | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 20.9 |
| All Other | 0.7 | | | 0.6 | 31.8 |

Page 22 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



History

The company was incorporated under the laws of Texas on April 28, 1981, as International Indemnity Company of Texas and began business on June 18, 1981. The name was changed to Houston Casualty Company on May 26, 1983.

Capital paid-up at year-end was \$5,000,000 consisting of 5,000,000 shares of common stock at a par value of \$1 per share. Authorized capital stock at year end was 10,000,000 shares.

Management

The company is wholly owned by Illium, Inc., which is wholly owned by HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., a publicly held insurance and insurance-related services holding company traded on the NYSE under the symbol HCC.

Management is under the direction of Michael J. Schell, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President of HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.

Officers And Directors

Officers

President and CEO Michael J. Schell

President Barry Cook (London Branch)

COO Nick Hutton-Penman (London Branch)

CFO Katherine Letsinger (London Branch)

EVP William N. Burke

EVP Mark W. Callahan

EVP Michael J. Donovan

EVP Brad T. Irick

EVP Stefano S. Minale

EVP Christopher J.B. Williams

SVP and Chief Actuary Thomas E. Weist

SVP Francesco Argondizzo

SVP Mark A. Buechler

SVP Brian E. Duffy

SVP Diana R. Dyckman

SVP Christopher M. Lewis

SVP Carl R. Nederman

SVP Frank Pedicini

SVP Mark P. Reynolds

SVP Mark P. Rickert

SVP Randy D. Rinicella

Vice President and CFO Stephen P. MacDonough

Vice President and Treasurer Jonathan Lee

Vice President Christopher D. Bonnett

Vice President Sharon L. Brock

Vice President Jackie S. Kellems

Vice President Joycelyn M. Ray

Vice President Deborah L. Riffe

Vice President Jose Torres

Secretary Alexander M. Ludlow

Treasurer Rowland Hughes (London Branch)

Directors

Mark W. Callahan Brad T. Irick Stephen P. MacDonough Pamela J. Penny Randy D. Rinicella Michael J. Schell Christopher J.B. Williams

Regulatory

An examination of the financial condition was made as of December 31, 2008, by the insurance department of Texas. The 2012 annual independent audit of the company was conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP. The annual statement of actuarial opinion is provided by Mark R. Proska., FCAS, MAAA, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP.

Page 23 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Reinsurance

The following text is derived from A.M. Best's Credit Report on Houston Casualty Group (AMB# 018421).

Reinsurance is maintained on a quota share and excess of loss basis with a separate program maintained for each line of business. Catastrophe coverage is purchased for property, property treaty, marine, energy, aviation, and other catastrophe exposed lines of business. Facultative reinsurance is also purchased when deemed appropriate.

Maintaining sufficient reinsurance to support the catastrophe portion of its portfolio, as well as limiting its exposure in any one class of business, is an integral part of the group's business strategy. Various domestic and foreign reinsurers are utilized in order to limit the group's credit risk to any particular reinsurer. In addition, management has positioned the group to be able to increase the utilization of reinsurance as market conditions warrant, while maintaining a solid balance sheet to support increased retention of premium when reinsurance capacity lessens.

Page 24 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Balance Sheet (\$000)

| Admitted Assets | 12/31/2012 | 12/31/2011 | 2012 % | 2011 % |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Bonds | 1,599,177 | 1,745,495 | 54.6 | 59.9 |
| Preferred Stock | | | | |
| Common Stock | 138,047 | | 4.7 | |
| Cash & Short-Term Invest | 41,335 | 15,523 | 1.4 | 0.5 |
| Real estate, investment | | | | |
| Derivatives | | | | |
| Other Non-Affil Inv Asset | 277 | 176 | | |
| Investments in Affiliates | 966,240 | 907,547 | 33.0 | 31.2 |
| Real Estate, Offices | 7,372 | 7,906 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Total Invested Assets | 2,752,449 | 2,676,646 | 93.9 | 91.9 |
| Premium Balances | 85,572 | 122,171 | 2.9 | 4.2 |
| Accrued Interest | 17,691 | 19,406 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Life department | | | | |
| All Other Assets | 74,670 | 93,433 | 2.5 | 3.2 |
| Total Assets | 2,930,381 | 2,911,655 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

| Liabilities & Surplus | 12/31/2012 | 12/31/2011 | 2012 % | 2011 % |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Loss & LAE Reserves | 783,787 | 885,612 | 26.7 | 30.4 |
| Unearned Premiums | 177,109 | 182,013 | 6.0 | 6.3 |
| Conditional Reserve Funds | 4,932 | 4,670 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Derivatives | | | | |
| Life department | | | | |
| All Other Liabilities | 169,448 | 140,358 | 5.8 | 4.8 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,135,276 | 1,212,653 | 38.7 | 41.6 |
| Surplus notes | | | | |
| Capital & Assigned Surplus | 577,235 | 584,259 | 19.7 | 20.1 |
| Unassigned Surplus | 1,217,870 | 1,114,743 | 41.6 | 38.3 |
| Total Policyholders' Surplus | 1,795,105 | 1,699,002 | 61.3 | 58.4 |
| Total Liabilities & Surplus | 2,930,381 | 2,911,655 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Page 25 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Interim Balance Sheet (\$000)

| Admitted Assets | 03/31/2013 | 06/30/2013 |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Bonds | 1,581,556 | 1,607,512 |
| Common Stock | 1,163,887 | 1,210,452 |
| Cash & Short-Term Invest | 47,583 | 49,848 |
| Other Investments | 7,204 | 7,039 |
| Total Invested Assets | 2,800,230 | 2,874,850 |
| Premium Balances | 101,772 | 102,941 |
| Accrued Interest | 17,055 | 16,967 |
| Reinsurance Funds | 33,030 | 55,993 |
| All Other Assets | 45,044 | 47,278 |
| Total Assets | 2,997,132 | 3,098,029 |

| Liabilities & Surplus | 03/31/2013 | 06/30/2013 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Loss & LAE Reserves | 784,003 | 786,771 |
| Unearned Premiums | 165,974 | 194,735 |
| Conditional Reserve Funds | 3,624 | 6,336 |
| All Other Liabilities | 166,487 | 166,085 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,120,088 | 1,153,926 |
| Capital & Assigned Surp | 577,323 | 577,332 |
| Unassigned Surplus | 1,299,721 | 1,366,771 |
| Total Policyholders' Surplus | 1,877,044 | 1,944,103 |
| Total Liabilities & Surplus | 2,997,132 | 3,098,029 |

Page 26 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013

364,876 190,292

141,556

33,028

231,008 243 264,279

31,024 233,256



Summary Of 2012 Operations (\$000)

| Statement of Income | 12/31/2012 | Funds Provided from Operations |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Premiums earned | 336,968 | Premiums collected |
| Losses incurred | 118,414 | Benefit & loss-related pmts |
| LAE incurred | 50,494 | |
| Undwr expenses incurred | 93,062 | LAE & undwr expenses paid |
| Other expenses incurred | | Other income / expense |
| Dividends to policyholders | | Dividends to policyholders |
| Net underwriting income | 74,998 | Underwriting cash flow |
| | | Net transfer |
| Net investment income | 219,086 | Investment income |
| Other income/expense | 243 | Other income/expense |
| Pre-tax operating income | 294,327 | Pre-tax cash operations |
| Realized capital gains | 7,241 | |
| Income taxes incurred | 37,353 | Income taxes pd (recov) |
| Net income | 264,215 | Net oper cash flow |

Page 27 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



Interim Income Statement (\$000)

| | Period Ended 06/30/2013 | Period Ended 06/30/2012 | Increase / Decrease |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Premiums earned | 160,662 | 167,244 | -6,582 |
| Losses incurred | 60,974 | 57,464 | 3,510 |
| LAE incurred | 27,343 | 29,821 | -2,478 |
| Undwr expenses incurred | 39,125 | 49,430 | -10,305 |
| Other expenses incurred | | | |
| Dividends to policyholders | | | |
| Net underwriting income | 33,220 | 30,529 | 2,691 |
| Net investment income | 33,190 | 35,214 | -2,024 |
| Other income/expense | 238 | 141 | 97 |
| Pre-tax operating income | 66,648 | 65,883 | 764 |
| Realized capital gains | 1,905 | 2,992 | -1,086 |
| Income taxes incurred | 18,616 | 19,604 | -988 |
| Net income | 49,937 | 49,271 | 666 |

Interim Cash Flow (\$000)

| | Period Ended 06/30/2013 | Period Ended 06/30/2012 | Increase / Decrease |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Premiums collected | 152,405 | 180,938 | -28,533 |
| Benefit & loss-related pmts | 84,570 | 79,623 | 4,947 |
| LAE & undwr expenses paid | 58,359 | 73,458 | -15,100 |
| Dividends to policyholders | | | |
| Underwriting cash flow | 9,476 | 27,856 | -18,380 |
| Net transfer | | | |
| Investment income | 38,947 | 39,646 | -700 |
| Other income/expense | 238 | 141 | 97 |
| Pre-tax cash operations | 48,661 | 67,643 | -18,983 |
| Income taxes pd (recov) | 20,987 | 10,186 | 10,801 |
| Net oper cash flow | 27,674 | 57,457 | -29,784 |

Page 28 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013



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Page 29 of 29 Print Date: September 03, 2013