

SIAT – Societa Italiana Assicurazioni e Riassicurazioni – per Azioni

Key Rating Drivers

Very Important Subsidiary: Fitch Ratings has revised its view of SIAT – Societa Italiana Assicurazioni e Riassicurazioni – per Azioni's strategic importance to its owner UnipolSai Assicurazioni S.p.A. under its group rating methodology to 'Very Important' from 'Important'.

This reflects SIAT's increased synergies with the Unipol group, financial results that are generally in line with the group's expectations and our view that divestiture over the rating horizon is highly unlikely. UnipolSai provides control functions, asset management and procurement services to SIAT. In turn, SIAT provides UnipolSai with technical and operational services in the marine business, given its role as the hub of competence for marine insurance within the UnipolSai group.

'Less Favourable' Business Profile: Fitch considers SIAT's business profile as 'Less Favourable' than that of other Italian insurers. SIAT is a small insurer with gross written premiums (GWP) of EUR173 million in 2022 and shareholders' equity of EUR69 million. Combined with its niche strategy, this makes SIAT susceptible to external shocks. It operates as the second-largest marine insurer in Italy in a highly competitive environment.

Strong Capitalisation, No Leverage: The insurer has a strong capital base, as reflected in Fitch's Prism Factor-Based Capital Model (Prism FBM) score of 'Extremely Strong' at end-2022. SIAT's regulatory Solvency II (S2) ratio, calculated according to the standard formula, was also strong at 169% at end-2022, little changed from end-2021. SIAT has no financial debt, which Fitch views as credit positive. We expect SIAT to maintain strong capitalisation.

Extensive Reinsurance Coverage: SIAT's reinsurance utilisation ratio is high. Net written premiums/GWP was 30% in 2022, little changed from 32% in 2021. Fitch believes SIAT's high usage of reinsurance is commensurate with the risks the company assumes and stabilises financial results. Counterparty credit risk is mitigated by all SIAT's reinsurers being rated in the 'A' category or above. SIAT's reinsurance programme, to which Fitch does not expect material changes in 2023, supports the company's Insurer Financial Strength (IFS) rating.

Strong Underwriting Performance: Fitch views SIAT's underlying financial performance as strong, with a five-year average return on equity of 3.9% (2022: 7.2%) and a five-year average combined ratio of 94% (2022: 90.6%). However, SIAT's net profit can be volatile, given the nature of the marine business. In 2022, the company reported a net profit of EUR4.9 million, supported by strong underwriting and the company's wide reinsurance cover.

Low Investment Risk: Fitch considers SIAT's investment policy prudent. Commensurate with its short-tail business, SIAT holds a highly liquid investment portfolio that mainly consists of fixed-income securities. Investment risk, as measured by the risky assets/equity ratio, is low.

However, SIAT's exposure to Italian asset risk affects the quality of its investment portfolio. SIAT held EUR64 million of Italian sovereign bonds at end-2022 (end-2021: EUR50 million), corresponding to 0.9x (0.7x) its shareholders' equity. This caps SIAT's score in Investment and Liquidity Risk under Fitch's *Insurance Rating Criteria* at 'bbb+'.

Ratings

SIAT - Societa Italiana Assicurazioni e Riassicurazioni - per Azioni

Insurer Financial Strength A-

Subsidiaries

Insurer Financial Strength A-

Outlooks

Insurer Financial Strength Stable

Financial Data

SIAT – Societa Italiana Assicurazioni e Riassicurazioni – per Azioni

(EURm)	End-2022	End-2021
Total assets	232.9	211.2
Total equity and reserves	69.4	67.4
Total gross written premiums	173.0	151.2
Net income	4.9	4.2
Solvency II (%)	169	168

Note: Reported on a yearly basis.
Source: Fitch Ratings, SIAT

Applicable Criteria

[Insurance Rating Criteria \(July 2023\)](#)

Related Research

[Italian Insurance Dashboard: 1H23 Results \(October 2023\)](#)

Analysts

Alberto Messina
 +49 69 768076 234
alberto.messina@fitchratings.com

Federico Faccio
 +44 20 3530 1394
federico.faccio@fitchratings.com

Rating Sensitivities

Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Positive Rating Action/Upgrade

- An upgrade of UnipolSai's IFS rating and an upward revision of SIAT's standalone credit quality.

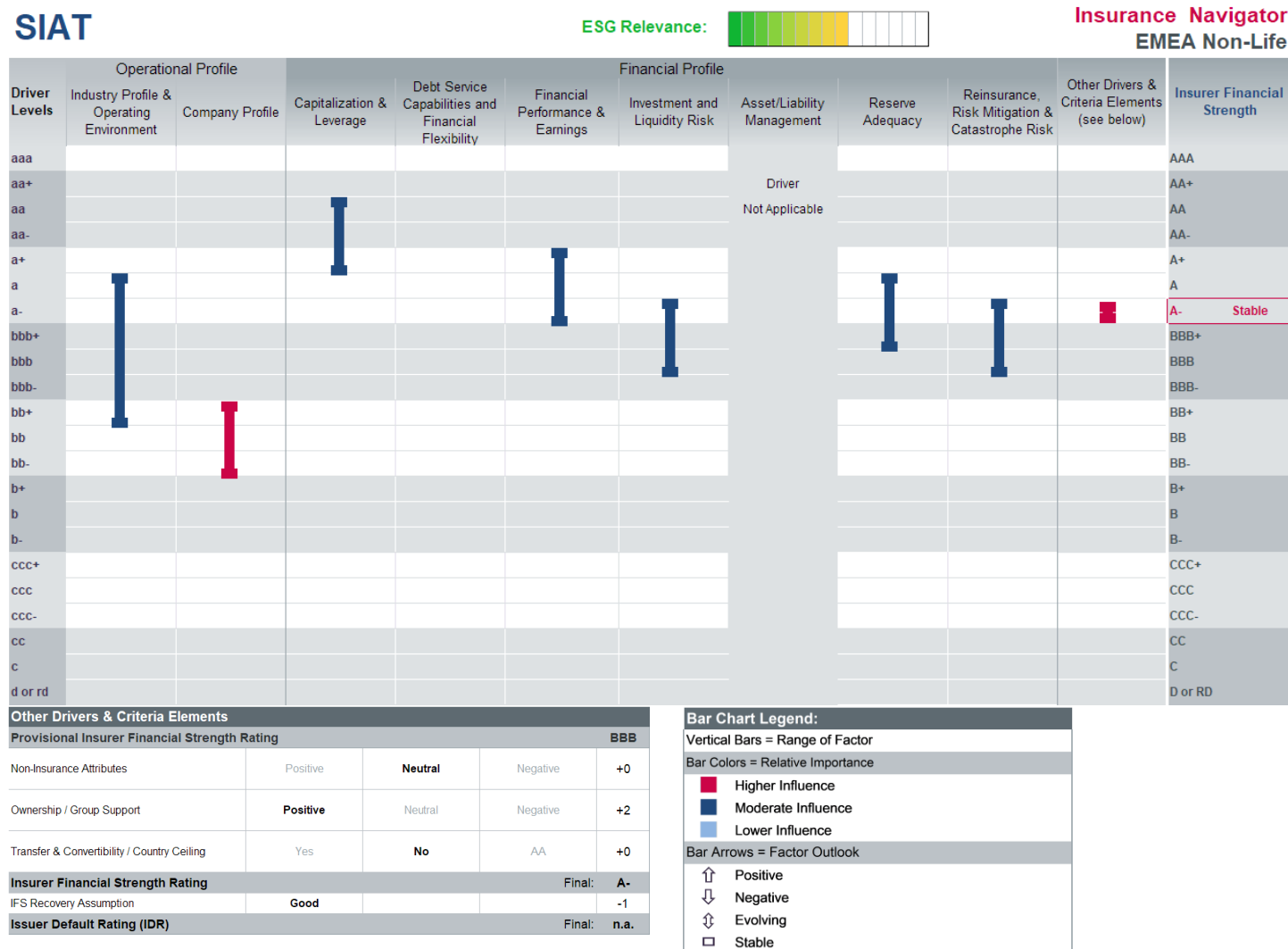
Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Negative Rating Action/Downgrade

- A downgrade of UnipolSai's IFS rating.
- A downward revision of SIAT's standalone credit quality due, for example, to a weakening in SIAT's business profile.

Latest Developments

- There were significant changes to SIAT's senior management in 2022, as a result of several retirements. The new management aims at further enhancing synergies with its parent UnipolSai and other companies that are part of the Unipol group.
- In 1H23, SIAT reported gross premiums for EUR103 million, up 13% year on year.

Key Rating Drivers – Scoring Summary



Company Profile

Niche Focus and Small Size Limit Rating

Fitch considers SIAT’s business profile as ‘Less Favourable’. SIAT reported GWP of EUR173 million and shareholders’ equity of EUR69 million in 2022. Its small size and limited diversification by product make the company susceptible to external shocks. SIAT is the second-largest marine insurer in Italy in a competitive business environment. SIAT’s main clients are Italian and international, industrial and commercial groups dealing with raw materials, semi-processed or finished products transported by sea, air, truck and rail.

SIAT is a specialised insurance company for hull (representing 63% of premiums in 2022) and cargo insurance (about 35%), commanding a leading market position second only to Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd (IFS: A+/Stable) and Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. (IFS: A+/Stable). SIAT maintains a separate brand due to its strong franchise in hull and cargo insurance, which is also mirrored by its membership in the International Union of Marine Insurers. Within the UnipolSai group, SIAT is the clear centre of competence for marine insurance.

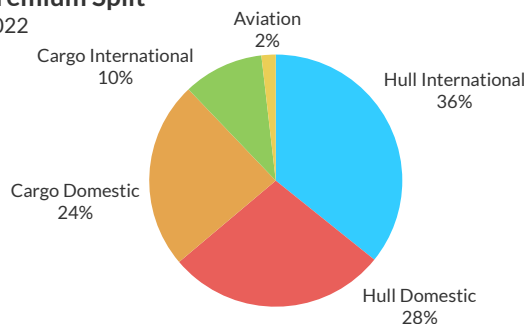
The company expanded into aviation insurance in 2017 to diversify its business mix. In 2022, the contribution to total written premiums remained small at EUR3.2 million. It envisages moderate growth for this line of business. Fitch views these diversification efforts as credit positive.

Company Profile Scoring

Business profile assessment	Less Favourable
Business profile sub-factor score	bb
Corporate governance assessment	Favourable
Corporate governance impact (notches)	0
Company profile factor score	bb

Source: Fitch Ratings

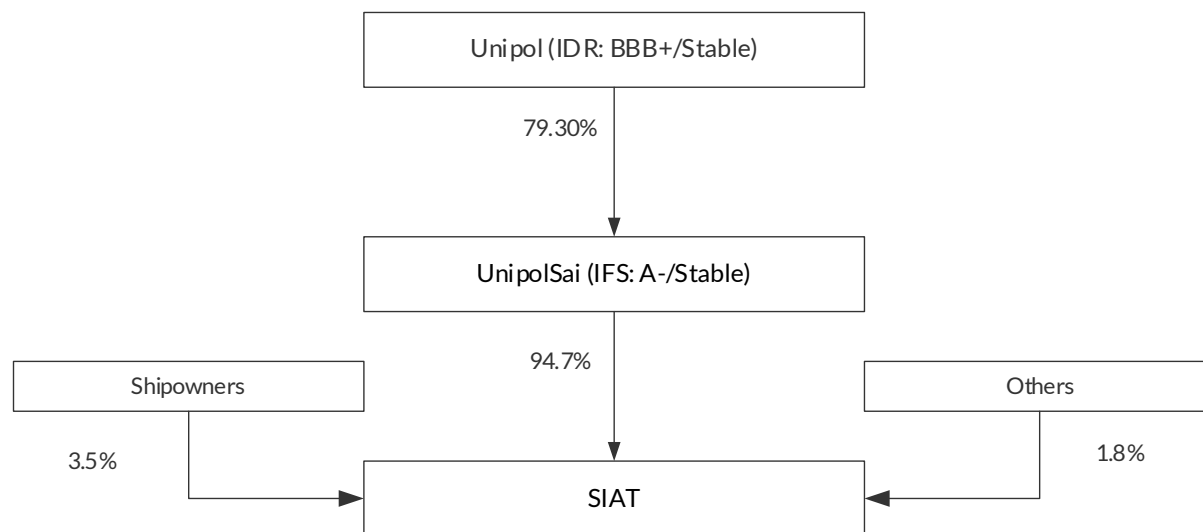
Premium Split 2022



Source: Fitch Ratings, company data

Ownership

SIAT was acquired by Unipol in 2012 as part of Fondiaria-Sai S.p.A. It is 94.7% owned by UnipolSai, the main insurance operating entity of Unipol Group. UnipolSai provides control functions, asset management and procurement services to SIAT. SIAT provides UnipolSai with technical and operational services in the marine business. UnipolSai cedes premiums to SIAT. The treaty is proportional and renewed on an annual basis. Fitch considers SIAT to be strategically important to UnipolSai under its group rating methodology.



Source: Fitch Ratings

Capitalisation and Leverage

Strong Capitalisation, No Financial Leverage

SIAT's capitalisation level was 'Extremely Strong' as measured by Prism FBM at end-2022. Its non-life marine, aviation and transport insurance risks are the biggest driver of risk capital under the model. This is influenced by the concentrated exposure to marine business, which accounts for about 98% of total non-life written premiums. SIAT's quality of capital is high and compares favourably with most of SIAT's Italian and other European peers.

Fitch considers SIAT's regulatory S2 ratio, calculated according to the standard formula, to be strong at 169% at end-2022 (end-2021: 168%). SIAT meets its funding needs exclusively through its parent UnipolSai. As a non-listed company, the company's access to capital markets is limited. Fitch believes UnipolSai would be willing to support SIAT, if needed. The company holds no debt and there are no plans to change that position, so it does not need to cover any interest expenses. Fitch views this as credit positive.

Financial Highlights

	End-2022	End-2021
Net leverage (x)	2.1	1.9
Gross leverage (x)	6.6	5.8
Regulatory capital ratio (%)	169	168

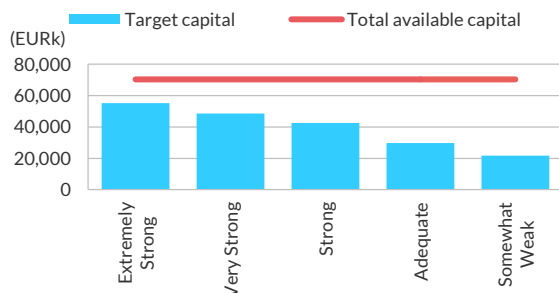
Note: Reported on a yearly basis.
Source: Fitch Ratings, SIAT

Fitch's Expectations

- SIAT to maintain strong capitalisation, as measured by both Prism FBM and S2.

Capitalisation Adequacy

PRISM FBM



Source: Fitch Ratings

Financial Highlights

	2022	2021
Prism score	Extremely Strong	Extremely Strong
Prism total AC (EURm)	70.3	74.6
Prism AC/TC at Prism score (%)	127	168
Prism AC/TC at higher Prism score (%)	n.a.	n.a.

AC - Available capital. TC - Target capital
Source: Fitch Ratings

Financial Performance and Earnings

Strong Profitability, but Volatile Net Income

Fitch views SIAT's underlying financial performance as strong, with a five-year average return on equity of 3.9% and a combined ratio of 94%. SIAT reported a profit of EUR5 million in 2022 as a result of sound underwriting and the removal of unprofitable contracts from its portfolio, in particular in the hull business, operated in the past two years. However, the company's net profit can be volatile given the nature of the business, as seen in 2018 and 2019. The aviation business only provides insurance coverage to general aviation and airports, but not to airline companies, which were under pressure in 2020 and, in part, in 2021 due to the restrictions on mobility.

SIAT's comprehensive reinsurance programme helps to smooth earnings volatility. Fitch's analysis of premium growth suggests that SIAT has expanded its marine business in line with the Italian market over the past five years. We view growth rates greater than the market or peer average cautiously, especially during periods of competitive pricing pressure.

Financial Highlights

(%)	End-2022	End-2021
Net income return on equity	7.2	6.4
Pre-tax operating profit return on equity	14.3	12.2
Pre-tax operating return on assets (excluding realised and unrealised gains)	4.4	3.9
Pre-tax operating return on assets (including realised and unrealised gains)	3.5	3.5
Net combined ratio	90.6	89.8
Operating ratio	81.6	85.4
Gross loss ratio	75	71.6

Source: Fitch Ratings

Fitch's Expectations

- SIAT to stabilise its technical result, with a positive effect on overall profitability.

Investment and Asset Risk

Low Asset Risk

SIAT holds a very liquid investment portfolio with hardly any exposure to risky assets, such as equities or non-investment-grade bonds. Fitch considers SIAT's investment policy as prudent. Commensurate with its short-tail business, SIAT holds a highly liquid investment portfolio mainly consisting of fixed-income securities. Investment risk, as measured by the risky-assets/equity ratio, is very low. SIAT's headquarters in Genoa is the main element of the real estate portfolio.

However, the quality of SIAT's asset allocation is slightly affected by its exposure to sovereign debt issued by Italy, which was EUR64 million at end-2022 (0.9x total shareholders' equity), up from EUR50 million at end-2021 (0.7x).

SIAT is exposed to foreign-exchange risk, as about 18% of its investment portfolio is denominated in foreign currency. It hedges its balance-sheet foreign-exchange risk by adequately matching its assets with liabilities denominated in different currencies.

Financial Highlights

(%)	End-2022	End-2021
Risky assets/capital (total)	28.9	23.5
Non-investment-grade bonds/capital (total)	1.0	1.1
Investments in affiliates/capital (total)	0.3	0.4
Sovereign investments/capital	92.1	73.6
Total liquid assets/non-life loss reserves	161.9	149.5

Note: Reported on a yearly basis.

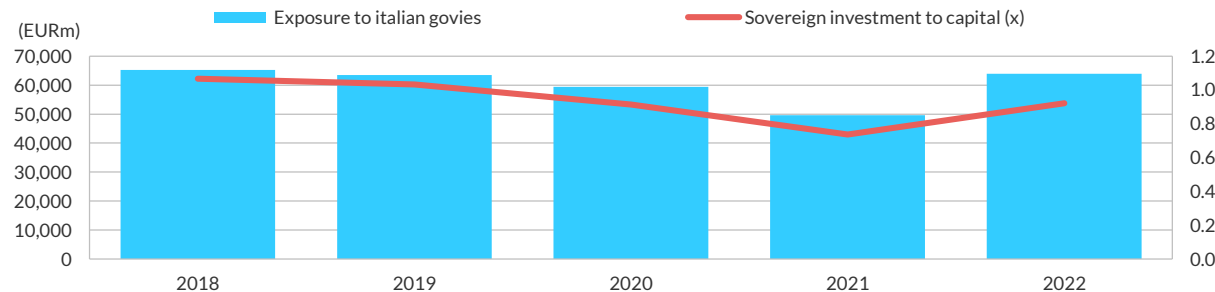
Source: Fitch Ratings, SIAT

Fitch's Expectations

- SIAT to maintain a conservative investment policy and a very liquid asset portfolio to meet its short-term obligations.

Sovereign Exposure

2018-2022



Source: Fitch Ratings, company data

Reserve Adequacy

Adequate Reserving Practice

Fitch views SIAT's reserves adequacy as strong. The ratio of consolidated technical reserves/premiums was 178% at end-2022, a level that we view as prudent given SIAT's business mix.

SIAT's loss triangles for the past five years have shown a positive experience, and Fitch expects this to continue in 2023. Provision for unexpired risks is set up using a percentage of gross and ceded premiums, based on the current year's loss ratio, and is set aside by SIAT every year as claims reserved in addition to the unearned premium reserve. This calculation is applied in accordance with Italian regulatory requirements.

Financial Highlights

(%)	End-2022	End-2021
Reserve development/prior-year capital	-0.4	-3.1
Reserve development/prior-year loss reserve	-0.4	-3.3
Net technical reserves/net written premiums	178.1	163.6
Net loss reserves/incurred losses (x)	1.7	2

Note: Reported on a yearly basis.
Source: Fitch Ratings, SIAT

Fitch's Expectations

- SIAT to maintain adequate reserving levels to meet its insurance obligations.

Reinsurance, Risk Mitigation and Catastrophe Risk

Extensive Reinsurance Coverage

SIAT's reinsurance utilisation ratio is high (70% in 2022). Fitch considers the company's extensive use of reinsurance to be credit positive as it mitigates earnings volatility. SIAT is exposed to natural catastrophe and man-made losses that can affect both severity and frequency of claims. The company cedes its premiums to high-quality reinsurers, 97% of which are rated in the 'A' category or higher.

The insurer makes constant use of proportional reinsurance. Towards the end of the reinsurance programme, there is an excess-of-loss programme designed to protect earnings and capital against peak losses or accumulation of different losses. UnipolSai cedes part of its premiums to SIAT through an internal proportional quota-share arrangement.

Financial Highlights

	End-2022	End-2021
Reinsurance recoverables/capital	282.3	241.3
Net written premiums/gross written premiums	29.9	31.8
Reinsurers' share of earned premiums	69.6	68.8

Note: Reported on a yearly basis.
Source: Fitch Ratings, SIAT

Fitch's Expectations

- SIAT's reinsurance programme to remain broadly unchanged.

Appendix A: Peer Analysis

Peer Comparison

Click [here](#) for a report that shows a comparative peer analysis of key credit factor scoring.

Appendix B: Industry Profile and Operating Environment

Industry Profile and Operating Environment (IPOE)

Click [here](#) for a link to a report that summarises the main factors driving the above IPOE score.

Appendix C: Other Rating Considerations

Below is a summary of additional ratings considerations that are part of Fitch's ratings criteria.

Group Insurance Financial Strength (IFS) Rating Approach

SIAT is the 94.69%-owned marine insurer of the UnipolSai group. Fitch deems this subsidiary as 'Very Important' to UnipolSai.

Notching

For notching purposes, Fitch assesses the Italian regulatory environment as being 'Effective' and classified it following a group solvency approach.

Notching Summary

IFS Ratings

A baseline recovery assumption of 'Good' applies to the IFS rating, and standard notching was used from the IFS anchor rating to the implied operating company IDR.

Operating company debt

Not applicable.

Holding company IDR

Not applicable.

Holding company debt

Not applicable.

Hybrids

Not applicable.

IFS – Insurer Financial Strength. IDR – Issuer Default Rating
Source: Fitch Ratings

Short-Term Ratings

Not applicable.

Hybrid – Equity/Debt Treatment

Not applicable.

Recovery Analysis and Recovery Ratings

Not applicable.

Transfer and Convertibility Risk (Country Ceiling)

None.

Criteria Variations

None.

Appendix D: Environmental, Social and Governance Considerations

Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation

SIAT has 7 ESG potential rating drivers

- SIAT has exposure to underwriting/reserving exposed to environmental and natural catastrophe risks; impact of catastrophes on own operations or asset quality; credit concentrations but this has very low impact on the rating.
- SIAT has exposure to compliance risk; treating customers fairly; pricing transparency; privacy/data security; legal/regulatory fines; exposure to insured and own cyber risk but this has very low impact on the rating.
- SIAT has exposure to social responsibility and its effect on brand strength; increased vulnerability due to credit concentrations but this has very low impact on the rating.
- Governance is minimally relevant to the rating and is not currently a driver.

			Overall ESG Scale	
key driver	0	issues	5	
driver	0	issues	4	
potential driver	7	issues	3	
not a rating driver	2	issues	2	
	5	issues	1	

Environmental (E)

General Issues	E Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	E Scale
GHG Emissions & Air Quality	1	n.a.	n.a.	5
Energy Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	4
Water & Wastewater Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	3
Waste & Hazardous Materials Management; Ecological Impacts	2	Underwriting/reserving exposed to asbestos/hazardous materials risks	Capitalization & Leverage; Financial Performance & Earnings; Reserve Adequacy; Reinsurance, Risk Mitigation & Catastrophe Risk	2
Exposure to Environmental Impacts	3	Underwriting/reserving exposed to environmental and natural catastrophe risks; impact of catastrophes on own operations or asset quality; credit concentrations	Capitalization & Leverage; Financial Performance & Earnings; Reserve Adequacy; Reinsurance, Risk Mitigation & Catastrophe Risk; Investment & Asset Risk	1

How to Read This Page
ESG scores range from 1 to 5 based on a 15-level color gradation. Red (5) is most relevant and green (1) is least relevant.

The Environmental (E), Social (S) and Governance (G) tables break out the individual components of the scale. The right-hand box shows the aggregate E, S, or G score. General Issues are relevant across all markets with Sector-Specific Issues unique to a particular industry group. Scores are assigned to each sector-specific issue. These scores signify the credit-relevance of the sector-specific issues to the issuing entity's overall credit rating. The Reference box highlights the factor(s) within which the corresponding ESG issues are captured in Fitch's credit analysis.

The Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation table shows the overall ESG score. This score signifies the credit relevance of combined E, S and G issues to the entity's credit rating. The three columns to the left of the overall ESG score summarize the issuing entity's sub-component ESG scores. The box on the far left identifies some of the main ESG issues that are drivers or potential drivers of the issuing entity's credit rating (corresponding with scores of 3, 4 or 5) and provides a brief explanation for the score.

Classification of ESG issues has been developed from Fitch's sector ratings criteria. The General Issues and Sector-Specific Issues draw on the classification standards published by the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB).

Sector references in the scale definitions below refer to Sector as displayed in the Sector Details box on page 1 of the navigator.

Social (S)

General Issues	S Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	S Scale
Human Rights, Community Relations, Access & Affordability	1	n.a.	n.a.	5
Customer Welfare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security	3	Compliance risk; treating customers fairly; pricing transparency; privacy/data security; legal/regulatory fines; exposure to insured and own cyber risk	Industry Profile & Operating Environment; Company Profile; Reserve Adequacy	4
Labor Relations & Practices	2	Impact of labor negotiations, including board/employee compensation and composition	Company Profile	3
Employee Wellbeing	1	n.a.	n.a.	2
Exposure to Social Impacts	3	Social responsibility and its effect on brand strength; increased vulnerability due to credit concentrations	Company Profile; Investment & Asset Risk; Financial Performance & Earnings; Reinsurance, Risk Mitigation & Catastrophe Risk	1

Governance (G)

General Issues	G Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	G Scale
Management Strategy	3	Operational implementation of strategy	Company Profile	5
Governance Structure	3	Board independence and effectiveness; ownership concentration; protection of creditor/stakeholder rights; legal/compliance risks; business continuity; key person risk; related party transactions	Company Profile	4
Group Structure	3	Organizational structure; appropriateness relative to business model; opacity; intra-group dynamics; ownership	Company Profile; Ownership	3
Financial Transparency	3	Quality and timing of financial reporting and auditing processes	Company Profile	2
				1

CREDIT-RELEVANT ESG SCALE	
How relevant are E, S and G issues to the overall credit rating?	
5	Highly relevant, a key rating driver that has a significant impact on the rating on an individual basis. Equivalent to "higher" relative importance within Navigator.
4	Relevant to rating, not a key rating driver but has an impact on the rating in combination with other factors. Equivalent to "moderate" relative importance within Navigator.
3	Minimally relevant to rating, either very low impact or actively managed in a way that results in no impact on the entity rating. Equivalent to "lower" relative importance within Navigator.
2	Irrelevant to the entity rating but relevant to the sector.
1	Irrelevant to the entity rating and irrelevant to the sector.

ESG Considerations

The highest level of ESG credit relevance, if present, is a score of '3'. This means ESG issues are credit neutral or have only a minimal credit impact on the entity, either due to their nature or to the way in which they are being managed by the entity. Fitch's ESG Relevance Scores are not inputs in the rating process; they are an observation on the relevance and materiality of ESG factors in the rating decision. For more information on Fitch's ESG Relevance Scores, visit www.fitchratings.com/esg.

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