

QBE at a glance

QBE Insurance Group is one of the world's leading insurers and reinsurers, operating out of 45 countries around the world, and has a presence in all of the key insurance markets.



Financial strength

QBE Insurance Group performance

2008

Gross written premium	£m	6,025
Net earned premium	£m	5,083
Combined operating ratio	%	88.5
Insurance profit	£m	1,001
Shareholders' funds	£m	5,364

QBE in Europe

QBE operates in all the major insurance centres throughout Europe and has more than 120 years experience in the UK. We have a strong presence across the UK and Ireland, enabling us to provide an outstanding service locally to brokers.

In Europe we have an indepth understanding of each of our chosen markets. Our ability to combine our local expertise with the broad knowledge of our product specialists enables us to provide innovative solutions in each territory.

Our financial strength provides a level of security and confidence with the added flexibility of our dual-pen capability. This means you have the choice of whichever is best for your clients, either Lloyd's, where we are one of the largest managing agents, or company paper.

Insurer financial strength and counterparty credit rating

You can judge the size and strength of a company by the ratings it keeps. We are pleased to be rated as follows:

Standard & Poor's	A+
Fitch Ratings	A+
A.M. Best	A (Excellent)

Standard & Poor's insurer financial strength and counterparty credit rating for QBE's main insurance subsidiaries is A+ (Stable). Fitch Ratings insurer financial strength rating for QBE's main underwriting subsidiaries is A+ (Stable), and the agency has also affirmed a long-term credit rating at A. Their outlook for all ratings is Stable. A.M. Best assigned the financial strength rating of the QBE Group of companies A (Excellent).

QBE key facts

- Gross written premium £6.0 billion to year end December 2008
- One of the largest managing agents at Lloyd's
- A+ rating by Standard & Poor's and Fitch, A (Excellent) A.M. Best
- Operating in the UK for over 120 years
- Top three insurance company for service – Insurance Times survey 2008
- Regional offices throughout the UK and Ireland
- Choice of writing business with Lloyd's security or company security
- Comprehensive product range

Our approach

All our people are encouraged and empowered to think for themselves, and to use their expertise to find a way around problems. We have a healthy appetite for risk, and a willingness to work flexibly in partnership with brokers, enabling us to find solutions where other insurers can't or won't.

We don't believe that one size fits all or that we should follow what other insurers do, which means we are always willing to take a view on specialist risks.

Leading product range

We are market leaders in the vast majority of products we offer. Our comprehensive product range is categorised below; with literally hundreds of product lines on offer we are confident we can provide you with a competitive and effective solution.

- Aviation
- Casualty
- Marine and Energy
- Motor
- Property
- Reinsurance
- Specialty
- British Marine

We stand by our claims

At QBE we pride ourselves on our professional, efficient and sympathetic approach to claims. So not only do we take great satisfaction from our claims record, we also place a great emphasis on risk management, working with clients to improve their systems and processes. This attitude has helped us to become one of the biggest and best insurers in the UK, as voted for by brokers. In the 2008 Insurance Times' Commercial Broker research we were rated third overall for service out of all the major insurance companies.

Local knowledge

UK and Ireland – Underwriting offices
London, Dublin, Birmingham, Bristol, Chelmsford, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester and Stafford

Europe – offices situated in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the Ukraine



History of QBE

In 1886, the North Queensland Insurance Company was formed by two insurance agents in Sydney, Australia. The company was expanded by establishing agencies throughout Asia and Australasia. There was even an agency presence in London prior to the branch office opening on Fenchurch Street in 1904.

North Queensland Insurance Company continued to grow and acquired Equitable Probate and General Insurance in 1959, before merging with the Bankers and Traders Insurance Company in 1971 to finally arrive at the name – QBE.

To find out more

For more information about QBE and how we can help your business, please visit our website www.qbeurope.com or e-mail us at enquiries@uk.qbe.com