To develop its annual list of the top 50 performing insurance companies, Ward Group analyzes the financial performance of nearly 3,000 property-casualty insurance companies domiciled in the United States and identifies the top performers based on objective data and subjective quality measures. Each company has passed all safety and consistency screens and achieved superior performance over the five years analyzed. This is the 25th consecutive year Ward Group has conducted the analysis.

The Ward’s 50 property-casualty group of insurance companies produced a 10.9% statutory return on average equity from 2010 to 2014 compared to 7.8% for the property-casualty industry overall.

“Most insurers saw improvements in overall premium levels, however, these premium gains were tempered by slightly lower financial returns,” explained Jeff Rieder, Partner and Head of Ward Group. “Our research finds that companies are cautiously optimistic about continued growth in revenue in 2015 but they responded that maintaining profitability is becoming more difficult. Growth in technology and business analytics investments are at the highest levels we have ever measured. While companies expect to achieve efficiency gains and improvements in customer satisfaction from these investments, the costs may negatively impact expense ratios. Fortunately, total policyholder surplus continues to grow and overall financial stability for the industry remains very strong. In selecting the Ward’s 50, we identified companies that pass financial stability requirements and measure their ability to grow while maintaining strong capital positions and underwriting results.”

Safety and Consistency

Insurance companies are evaluated and must pass minimum thresholds to be considered for the Ward’s 50 designation.