

Non-life insurers' gross direct premium grows 13% in FY19

FE BUREAU

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GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANIES reported gross direct premium collection of ₹1.70 lakh crore in the financial year 2018-19, an increase of 13% year-on-year. Growth in the non-life insurance sector was largely due to a surge in health insurance and crop insurance, say market participants. Among the 25 general insurer players, only two leading public sector insurers — National Insurance and United India Insurance — saw negative growth in their premiums in the previous financial year.

New India Assurance, the country's biggest general insurance company, continued its dominant position with a market share of 14.06%, while in the private sector ICICI Lombard remained on the top with a market share of 8.52%. However, four public sector insurers enjoyed a combined market share of around 40% in the last

Gross direct premiums underwritten of top 10 non-life insurance companies

(₹ crore)

Insurance companies	2017-18	2018-19	Diff (%)
■ The New India Assurance	22,718.76	23,910.77	5.25
■ United India Insurance	17,429.95	16,384.60	-6.00
■ National Insurance	16,193.55	15,178.23	-6.27
■ ICICI Lombard General Insurance	12,356.85	14,488.23	17.25
■ The Oriental Insurance	11,452.05	13,246.31	15.67
■ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	9,445.22	11,058.96	17.09
■ HDFC Ergo General insurance	7,289.97	8,612.85	18.15
■ Tata AIG General Insurance	5,435.92	7,742.66	42.44
■ IFFCO Tokio General Insurance	5,631.89	7,002.00	24.33
■ Reliance General Insurance	5,069.08	6,191.03	22.13
Grand total	150,662.09	170,111.60	12.91

Source: Irdai

fiscal compared to 45% in the previous financial year.

Data from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) showed the general insurance industry saw gross direct premium of ₹1.7 lakh crore in 2018-19 as against ₹1.5 lakh

crore in previous fiscal.

"In the financial year 2017-18, the non-life insurance industry had seen growth of over 17% and this year the growth has fallen to 13% as some line of business like fire, engineering and even motor insurance have seen low growth

compared to health insurance in the last financial year," said a senior official from the leading insurance company. According to the data from General Insurance Council, as on February 2019, motor insurance saw gross premiums underwritten at ₹58,315.87 crore as compared with ₹53,154.07 crore in previous financial year a growth of 9.7%. Motor insurance has two components, one being third party (TP) and other own damage (OD). So motor OD saw gross premiums underwritten at ₹24,218.55 crore as compared to ₹24,048.03 crore in previous financial year a growth of 0.7%. While motor TP grew by 17.1% in the last financial year till February.

While health insurance saw gross premiums underwritten at ₹30,916.13 crore as compared to ₹26,266.35 crore in previous financial year a growth of 17.7%.