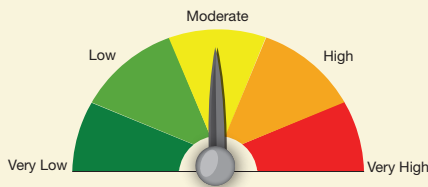


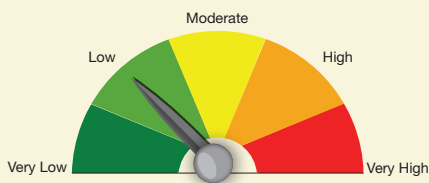
Country Risk Tier

CRT-3

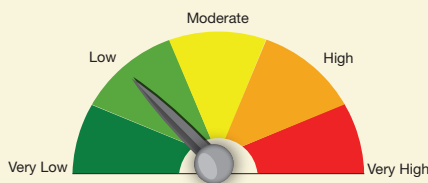
Economic Risk



Political Risk



Financial System Risk



[For information on companies followed](#)

[Market Outlooks](#)

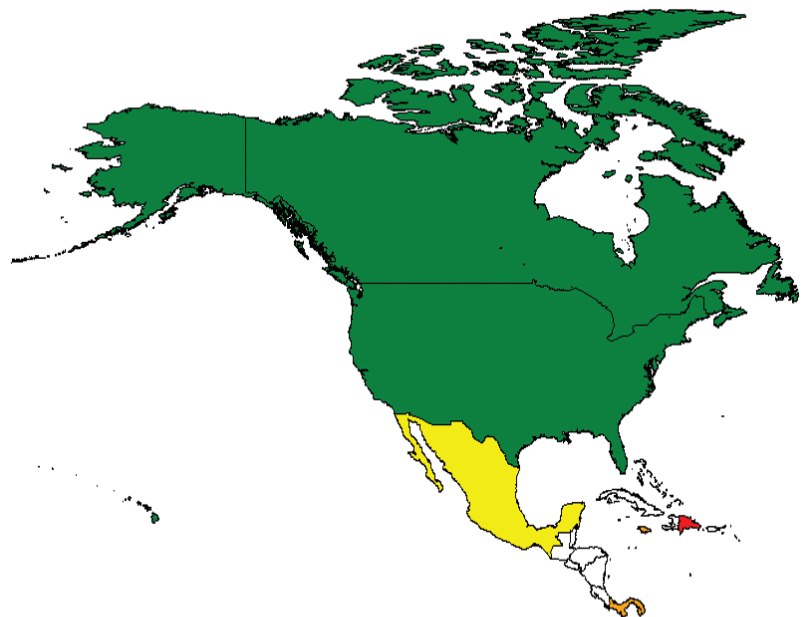
Bahamas

- The Country Risk Tier (CRT) reflects A.M. Best’s assessment of three categories of risk: Economic, Political and Financial System Risk.

- The economy of the Bahamas, a CRT-3 country, is heavily dependent on tourism although it has been diversifying into financial services. Prominent sectors are banking, trusts, mutual funds and insurance.

- Declines in tourism, which represents approximately half of gross domestic product, foreign direct investment and offshore financial services activity weighed heavily on the Bahamian economy in 2008 and 2009.

- The map below depicts the countries A.M Best evaluates in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. Economic performance in the region over the course of 2008 and 2009 echoes that of the United States in the form of decreased tourism revenues, slumping financial services sectors, and sharp reduction in overseas remittances. The region is expected to recover in 2010 but countries most vulnerable to a prolonged contraction are those in CRT-4 and CRT-5.



CRT 1 2 3 4 5



Regional Summary: Caribbean

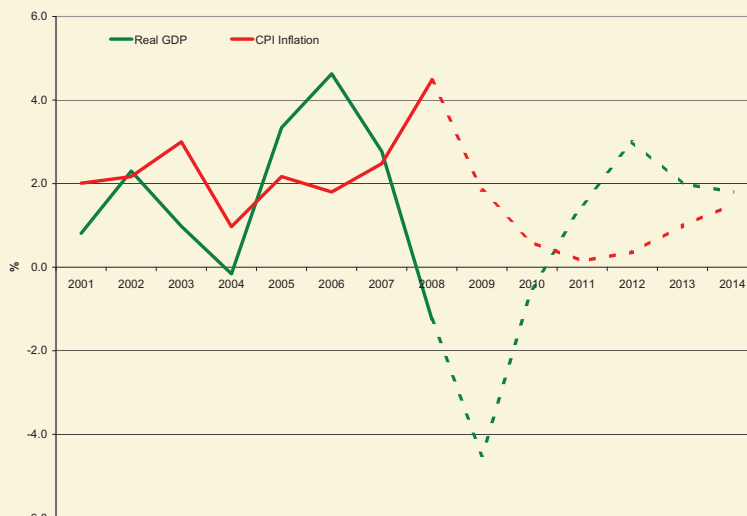
- The countries of the Caribbean vary in cultural origin, economic foundation and population affluence. However, in all cases, their long-term growth and stability is highly dependent upon their larger regional neighbors.
- As much of the Caribbean relies upon tourism revenues from nationals of developed countries, particularly the United States, economic growth is suffering in 2009.
- The Caribbean financial services sectors will be affected by the current global financial crisis. The exact impact is yet to be determined as the trend of nationalizations and consolidations in finance companies and the collapsing of hedge funds continues.

Economic Risk: Moderate

- The Bahamas is a small economy that is heavily reliant upon tourism revenues. Sharp peaks and troughs in the cycle occur with international tourism trends.
- The Bahamas economy is very closely linked to the United States, as approximately 80% of incoming tourists originate from there.
- Growth in gross domestic product (GDP) dropped dramatically 2009 as tourism revenues deteriorated.

| Vital Statistics 2008 | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Nominal GDP | USD bn | 7.46 |
| Population | mil | 0.3 |
| GDP Per Capita | USD | 22,156 |
| Real GDP Growth | % | -1.3 |
| Inflation Rate | % | 4.5 |
| Premiums Written (Life) | USD mil | 199 |
| Premiums Written (Non-Life) | USD mil | 571 |
| Premiums Growth (07-08) | % | 4.1 |
| Regional Comparison | | Country Risk Tier |
| Bahamas | | CRT-3 |
| Cayman Islands | | CRT-2 |
| Barbados | | CRT-2 |
| Antigua & Barbuda | | CRT-4 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | | CRT-3 |
| Jamaica | | CRT-4 |

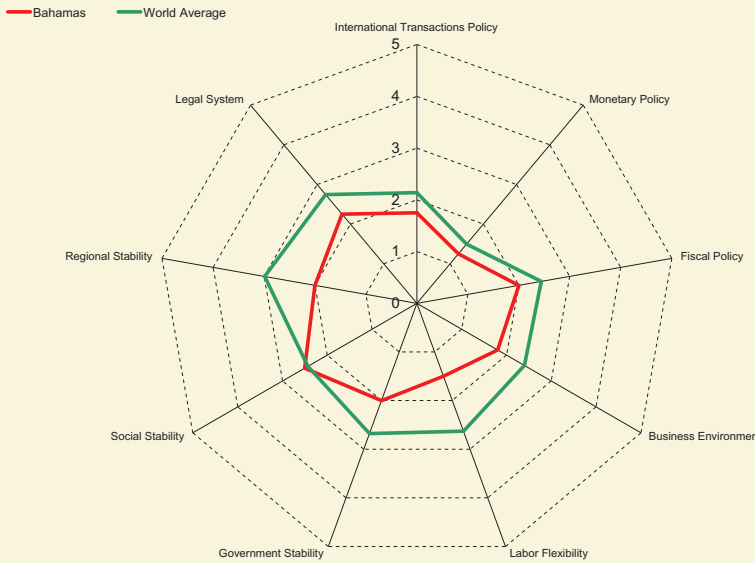
Source: IMF, Swiss Re and A.M. Best



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (10/08) and A.M. Best

Political Risk Summary

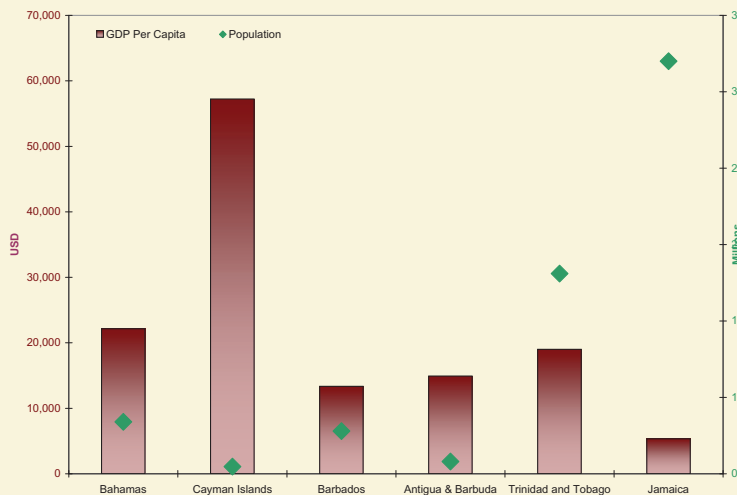
Score 1 (best) to 5 (worst)



Source: A.M. Best

Political Risk: Low

- The Bahamas is an independent Commonwealth of the United Kingdom.
- Monetary policy is largely determined by the pegging of the Bahamian dollar with the U.S. dollar at par.
- There is no direct taxation so government finances are acquired via customs duties.



Source: IMF and A.M. Best

Financial System Risk: Low

- The Registrar of Insurance, under the Ministry of Finance, is the local regulator.
- In the financial services sector, the banking industry is suffering from the global financial crisis.
- The creation of the Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX) was an effort to create a domestic capital market trading platform.

GUIDE TO BEST'S COUNTRY RISK TIERS

A.M. Best defines country risk as the risk that country-specific factors could adversely affect the claims paying ability of an insurer. Country risk is evaluated and factored into all Best's Credit Ratings. Countries are placed into one of five tiers, ranging from "CRT-1" (Country Risk Tier 1), denoting a stable environment with the least amount of risk, to "CRT-5" (Country Risk Tier 5) for countries that pose the most risk and, therefore, the greatest challenge to an insurer's financial stability, strength and performance.

A.M. Best's Country Risk Tiers are not credit ratings and are not directly comparable to a sovereign debt rating, which evaluates the ability and willingness of a government to service its debt obligations.

Country Risk Tiers

| Country Risk Tier | Definition |
|-------------------|--|
| CRT-1 | Predictable and transparent legal environment, legal system and business infrastructure; sophisticated financial system regulation with deep capital markets; mature insurance industry framework. |
| CRT-2 | Predictable and transparent legal environment, legal system and business infrastructure; sufficient financial system regulation; mature insurance industry framework. |
| CRT-3 | Developing legal environment, legal system and business environment with developing capital markets; developing insurance regulatory structure. |
| CRT-4 | Relatively unpredictable and nontransparent political, legal and business environment with underdeveloped capital markets; partially to fully inadequate regulatory structure. |
| CRT-5 | Unpredictable and opaque political, legal and business environment with limited or nonexistent capital markets; low human development and social instability; nascent insurance industry. |

Country Risk Reports

A.M. Best Country Risk Reports are designed to provide a brief, high level, explanation of some of the key factors that determine a country's Country Risk Tier assignment. It is not intended to summarize A.M. Best's opinion on any particular insurance market, or the prospects for that market.

Categories of Risk

Country Risk Reports provide "scores" for three categories of risk for each country. These "scores" are: (1) Very Low; (2) Low; (3) Moderate; (4) High and (5) Very High.

| Category of Risk | Definition |
|-----------------------|---|
| Economic Risk | The likelihood that fundamental weaknesses in a country's economy will cause adverse developments for an insurer. A.M. Best's assessment of economic risk evaluates the state of the domestic economy, government finances and international transactions, as well as prospects for growth and stability. |
| Political Risk | The likelihood that government or bureaucratic inefficiencies, societal tensions, inadequate legal system or international tensions will cause adverse developments for an insurer. Political risk comprises the stability of the government and society, the effectiveness of international diplomatic relationships, the reliability and integrity of the legal system and of the business infrastructure, the efficiency of the government bureaucracy and the appropriateness and effectiveness of the government's economic policies. |
| Financial System Risk | Financial system risk (which includes both insurance and non-insurance financial system risk) is the risk that financial volatility may erupts due to inadequate reporting standards, weak banking system or asset markets and/or poor regulatory structure. Along with the risk that the insurance industry's level of development and public awareness, transparent and effective regulation and reporting standards and sophisticated regulatory body will contribute to a volatile financial system and compromise the ability of an insurer to pay claims. |

Political Risk Summary

To provide additional detail on the political risk in a given domicile the Country Risk Reports include the Political Risk Summary. The Political Risk Summary is a radar chart that displays scores for nine different aspects of political risk scored on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the least amount of risk and 5 being the highest amount of risk.

| Category | Definition |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| International Transactions Policy | Measures the effectiveness of the exchange rate regime and currency management. |
| Monetary Policy | Measures the ability of a country to effectively implement monetary policy. |
| Fiscal Policy | Measures the ability of a country to effectively implement fiscal policy. |
| Business Environment | Measures the overall quality of the business environment, and ease of doing business. |
| Labor Flexibility | Measures the flexibility of the labor market, including the company's ability to hire and fire employees. |
| Government Stability | Measures the degree of stability in a government. |
| Social Stability | Measures the degree of social stability including human development and political rights. |
| Regional Stability | Measures the degree of stability in the region |
| Legal System | Measures the transparency and level of corruption in the legal system. |

Country Risk Tier Disclosure

A Country Risk Tier (CRT) is not a credit rating, rather it represents a component of A.M. Best's credit rating methodology that is applied to all insurers. A CRT is not a recommendation to purchase, hold or terminate any security, insurance policy, contract or any other financial obligation issued by a government, an insurer or other rated issuer, nor do they address the suitability of any particular policy, contract or other financial obligation for a specific purpose or purchaser.

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