RATING REPORT

Century Insurance Company Limited

REPORT DATE:

December 31,2024

RATING ANALYST:

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RATING DETAILS								
Dating Catagory	Latest Rating	Previous Rating						
Rating Category	Long-Term	Long-Term						
IFS	AA (IFS)	AA (IFS)						
Rating Date	December 31, 2024	December 27, 2023						
Outlook/ Rating Watch	Stable	Stable						
Rating Action	Reaffirmed	Reaffirmed						

COMPANY INFORMATION	
Incorporated in 1985	External auditors: BDO Ebrahim & Co. Chartered Accountants
Public Limited Company	Chairman of the Board: Mr. Iqbal Ali Lakhani
Key Shareholder(s):	Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Mohammed Hussain Hirji
Premier Fashions (Pvt.) Limited ~29.0%	Chief Executive Officer, wir. Worlammed Hussam Hill
SIZA Services (Pvt.) Limited ~23.6%	
SIZA (Pvt.) Limited ~14.2%	
SIZA Commodities (Pvt.) Limited ~9.9%	
General Public ~14.9%	

APPLICABLE METHODOLOGY(IES)

Applicable Rating Criteria: General Insurance

https://docs.vis.com.pk/docs/GeneralInsurance-2023.pdf

VIS Issue/Issuer Rating Scale:

https://docs.vis.com.pk/docs/VISRatingScales.pdf

Century Insurance Company Limited

OVERVIEW OF THE INSTITUTION

RATING RATIONALE

Century Insurance
Company Limited
(CENI) was
incorporated as a
public limited entity
in 1985. The
registered office of
the Company is
located in Karachi.

The rating assigned to Century Insurance Company Limited ('CENI' or 'the Company') derives strength from its association with Lakson Group of Companies, an industrial conglomerate with a prominent and diverse presence in several industries. Despite increase in the business volumes as evidenced by growth in gross written premium (GWP) during the rating review period on account of inflation adjustments, forex impact and onboarding of few new clients, the Company has been losing its market share; the said trend needs to be restrained in view of assigned ratings. Additionally, significant increase in investment income, largely emanating from higher returns on government securities, supported the bottom line. In terms of composition of investment mix, credit risk is considered manageable as about two-thirds of the portfolio entails government securities. However, the portfolio is exposed to interest rate risk as half of the PIBs are on fixed rate with duration of over 5 years. Moreover, equity and mutual fund portfolio are also exposed to market risk. The management is poised to invest in blue chips and high dividend yielding stocks to manage the associated risk.

Assigned rating also factors in reinsurance arrangements largely with counterparties having sound credit risk profiles with appropriate risk retention on net account to maintain risk appetite of the Company. Moreover, CENI is considered sound from solvency risk point of view as the Company has adequate cushion in terms of admissible assets over its liabilities. Going forward, maintaining underwriting quality through rationalization of loss ratios, adequate mitigation of market risk and sustenance of momentum in profitability would remain important rating drivers.

Insurance Sector Update

Global Overview

The global insurance industry has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability amidst evolving macroeconomic conditions and heightened geopolitical tensions. In 2023, the industry recorded its strongest growth since 2006, expanding by 7.5%. Global premiums reached €6.2 trillion, divided among life insurance (€2.62 trillion), property and casualty (P&C) (€2.15 trillion), and health insurance (€1.43 trillion).

Regional market dynamics underscore significant variances in growth. North America continues to dominate the P&C and health insurance segments, contributing 54.2% and two-thirds of global premiums, respectively. The Asia-Pacific region led the recovery in life insurance, buoyed by China's post-pandemic rebound (7.7% growth) and India's exceptional growth trajectory of 13.6%. In Europe, life insurance premiums grew by 3.3% in 2023 after a contraction in 2022, though challenges persist, including a heavy reliance on single-premium products.

Sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) integration have become central to insurers' strategies, with almost all firms embedding sustainability goals into their investment portfolios. Clean energy and transition technologies are particularly prominent themes. Technological innovation, especially through artificial intelligence (AI), is gradually replacing traditional insurance processes. AI is now critical for underwriting, claims

management, and risk modeling, while advancements in IT enable real-time customer engagement and personalized products.

Capital management strategies are also evolving in response to macroeconomic changes. Higher interest rates have improved investment yields, prompting insurers to increase allocations to private markets and alternative assets, such as infrastructure debt. Liquidity management remains a top priority as insurers strive to balance portfolio diversification with maintaining stable risk levels. Meanwhile, regulatory developments and geopolitical tensions are among the top macroeconomic concerns for insurers, further complicated by diverging monetary policies across regions.

Looking ahead, the global insurance market is projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.5% over the next decade, with life and health insurance driving much of this expansion. Asia is expected to remain the primary growth engine, accounting for nearly half of the absolute premium increase. However, the industry must address key challenges, such as balancing insurability and affordability amidst rising climate and cyber risks, tackling inequalities exacerbated by demographic and economic shifts, and adapting to regulatory changes in a fragmented geopolitical environment.

Local Overview

The insurance sector in Pakistan, demonstrates a complex and evolving landscape. The industry is divided into life and non-life insurance segments, with significant contributions from both conventional and takaful (Islamic insurance) operations. However, insurance penetration remains low, at just 0.79% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2023, the life insurance sector reported a gross premium of PKR 404 billion, with claims paid amounting to PKR 289 billion. Health policies dominated the product distribution, constituting 41% of the total premium, followed by participating policies at 30% and unit-linked policies at 23%. The non-life insurance sector, on the other hand, recorded a gross premium of PKR 227 billion, with claims paid totaling PKR 84 billion. Fire and property damage insurance accounted for the largest share of the premium at 31%, followed by motor insurance at 20% and engineering insurance at 16%.

The financial performance of the sector highlights a substantial investment income, with the life insurance segment reporting total assets of PKR 2,518 billion and investments of PKR 1,911 billion as of Dec'23. The non-life insurance segment also showed strong financial health, with total assets of PKR 381 billion and investments of PKR 145 billion as of Dec'23. The takaful sector, although smaller, shows promising growth potential, particularly in the family takaful segment, which contributed 35% of the total private sector premium. The general takaful segment accounted for 11% of the total non-life insurance industry premium.

Challenges facing the sector include low motor insurance adoption, limited local reinsurance capacity, and a shortage of skilled human resources. The SECP's strategic plan underscores the importance of adopting IFRS-17 by January 2026, embracing technological advancements, strengthening legislative frameworks, and enforcing compulsory insurance schemes to tackle current challenges. Overall, the insurance sector in Pakistan is poised for potential growth, driven by both conventional and takaful operations. The industry's financial stability, coupled with strategic initiatives by the SECP, positions it well for future expansion and increased penetration in the national economy.

Assigned rating continue to drive support from strong sponsor strength

CENI is a part of Lakson Group of Companies, an industrial conglomerate with a prominent and diverse presence in several industries, including agri-business, call centers, consumer non-durables, fast food, financial services, media, paper and board, printing and packaging, surgical instruments, technology (data-networking, BPO, and software) and travel.

Business Strategy

CENI is primarily engaged in providing general insurance and window takaful operations (WTO) to five primary segments namely fire & property damage (F&P), marine, aviation & transport, motor, accident & health (A&H), and miscellaneous. The Company operates via eleven branches spread across Pakistan; no new branch was opened during the period under review.

Gross Written Premium (GWP)	CY21	CY22	CY23	9MCY24
Fire and property damage	27.6%	25.8%	24.8%	22.2%
Marine, aviation and transport	21.9%	23.4%	23.0%	22.0%
Motor	24.2%	21.8%	20.8%	21.7%
Accident & Health	22.0%	24.2%	27.0%	29.4%
Miscellaneous	4.2%	4.8%	4.5%	4.7%
Total (PKR in million)	1,601.3	1,847.3	1,969.0	1,771.7

CENI's business mix did not exhibit any noteworthy change during the rating horizon; the same is composed of a well-diversified mix of fire & property, marine, aviation & transport, and accident & health while the proportion of miscellaneous segment continued to remain low. Gross written premium (GWP) increased to PKR 2.0b (CY22: PKR 1.8b) during CY23 on account of inflation adjustments and onboarding of few new clients. Further, the growth momentum was sustained in the ongoing year with GWP increasing by 14.7% to PKR 1.8b (9MCY23: PKR 1.5b) during 9MCY24. Growth was manifested in A&H segment, whereas proportion of F&P segment posted some decrease during the ongoing year. An increase in A&H segment is attributable to inflationary pressures on the medicinal treatment.

The growth in the marine business has been influenced by increasing trends in both exports and imports during the review period. Furthermore, the marginal growth of GWP in motor segment is also underpinned by higher volumetric sale during the current year. As per the management, considerable support is extended by the sponsoring group with total group business constituting 45% of the GWP during the outgoing year. CENI engages in facultative business; however, the proportion of facultative business compared to GWP remained less than 1% during the rating review period; the same is attributable to restrictions imposed by the reinsurers in terms of capacity limitation.

With the ongoing recovery of macroeconomy backed by reduction in interest rates to 13% and stabilization of inflationary pressures, the management is making concerted efforts to increase market share and the business of the Company is expected to continue to grow at a steady pace. The management projects that the Company will be able to close CY24 with organic growth of 10% in the topline; the cumulative GWP (Conventional plus takaful) is estimated to be recorded at PKR 2.4b.

CESSION RATIO	CY21	CY22	CY23	9MCY24
Fire and property damage	91.1%	93.8%	89.4%	89.1%
Marine, aviation and transport	42.6%	41.8%	47.6%	52.5%
Motor	2.5%	3.2%	3.9%	5.1%
Accident & Health	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Miscellaneous	73.6%	70.8%	63.6%	70.3%
Total	39.4%	38.8%	36.7%	38.6%

Cession ratio decreased during the outgoing year with highest cession being recorded in the fire segment owing to lower sum policies ceded to reinsurers. In addition, the cession ratios have remained on a higher side in the miscellaneous segment as out of the entire foreign trade credit business in the miscellaneous segment almost 95% is ceded. On the contrary, almost the entire A&H business is retained on Company's books.

Rating derive comfort from the growing Window Takaful Operations

On window takaful operation (WTO) front, the gross and net takaful contribution increased to PKR 279.6m (9MCY23: PKR 206.9m) during 9MCY24. Growth in gross contribution was driven by growth in marine segment. However, on account of increase in net claims expense of PKR 57.4m (9MCY23: PKR 41.5m); the surplus reaped by the participants decreased to PKR 20.2m (9MCY23: PKR 22.1m). Surplus also constitutes a higher net investment income to the tune of PKR 17.6m (9MCY23: PKR 11.5m) during the ongoing year. Nevertheless, given WTO have been profitable for the past couple of years; the management expects to maintain growth momentum with key focus on all segments.

Reinsurance Arrangements

CENI's risk profile is supported by strong reinsurance coverage provided by diversified panel of reinsurers. Risk profile of the reinsurance panel is considered sound as all reinsurers are rated in the 'A' band or higher. There was no change in the reinsurance panel during the rating review period. In terms of proportional treaties, Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PRCL) and SCOR Re continue to have an equal share of 35% each in major segments including fire, marine cargo, engineering, miscellaneous accident and bond during the rating review period. On the other hand, SCOR Re leads in the motor segment under both proportional and non-proportional treaties. The Company has negotiated quota cum surplus treaties for all its major segments protected further by non-proportional treaties. In anticipation of enhanced business, the treaty limits for fire segment were increased but there were no changes in the retention levels treaty capacity for other segments. Additionally, the coverage of XOL motor treaties were enhanced to PKR 22.5m and PKR 50m for 1st and 2nd layer respectively. No further changes were observed in non-proportional treaty arrangements.

Claim experiences

Gross Claims Ratio	CY21	CY22	CY23	9MCY24	9MCY23
Fire and property damage	21.3%	105.7%	25.4%	55.3%	28.7%
Marine, aviation transport	16.6%	27.5%	14.0%	20.1%	14.4%
Motor	60.5%	56.5%	47.1%	51.4%	47.6%

Accident & Health	85.2%	84.3%	84.0%	86.3%	82.2%
Miscellaneous	37.2%	38.8%	30.6%	15.7%	31.7%
Total Gross Claims Ratio	43.3%	67.6%	43.1%	52.3%	43.7%

The claim experiences (gross and net claims) exhibited a mixed trend with improvement in the outgoing year followed by deterioration during the ongoing year. Gross claims ratio improved during the outgoing year due to reduction in quantum of claims from F&P, marine and miscellaneous segments whereas deterioration during the ongoing year was on account of higher claims in A&H, F&P and motor segments. During the review, CENI major fire related claims included a claim pertaining to packaging company and an internet service provider to the tune of PKR 125m and PKR 68.9m; the paid claim in the aforesaid companies amounted to PKR 2.0m and 7.4m respectively.

Net Claims Ratio	CY21	CY22	CY23	9MCY24	9MCY23
Fire and property damage	18.1%	52.7%	4.0%	23.6%	3.5%
Marine, aviation transport	11.3%	14.8%	10.0%	17.1%	9.1%
Motor	45.8%	45.4%	43.5%	45.1%	44.3%
Accident & Health	85.4%	84.4%	84.3%	86.6%	82.6%
Miscellaneous	31.0%	36.7%	13.8%	18.0%	23.2%
Total Net Claims Ratio	50.1%	52.4%	51.7%	55.8%	51.4%

Net claims ratio also slightly improved during CY23 as an outcome of growth in scale of operations despite growth in net claims; the same deteriorated during 9MCY24 with highest net claims emanating from A&H segment on a timeline on account of major retention on net account. The inflationary pressure contributed towards increased health insurance-related claims as the medical treatment became relatively costly during the ongoing year.

Underwriting profits:

UNDERWRITING PROFIT (PKR in Million)	CY21	CY22	CY23	9MCY24	9MCY23
Fire and property damage	-4.0	-23.8	6.8	-3.4	-7.8
Marine, aviation and transport	137.6	169.9	147.9	97.9	102.8
Motor	87.5	98.7	107.7	77.1	77.1
Accident & Health	-32.6	-40.7	-44.4	-57.7	-27.7
Miscellaneous	6.9	5.1	19.0	6.9	8.5
Total	195.5	209.2	237.0	120.7	152.9

Underwriting profit has noted a decline of 21% in 9MCY24 compared to SPLY due to deterioration of net claims ratio. Underwriting expense ratio also increased during the ongoing year in line with higher management expenses pertaining to A&H and motor segment. Consequently, combined ratio was recorded higher at 87.5% as opposed to 80.2% in the preceding year. Marine and motor segments have continued to contribute the majority of underwriting profits while fire & property and accident and health have largely posted losses on a timeline. Furthermore, a significant increase in investment income to PKR 404.3m (9MCY23: PKR 285.5m) primarily due to higher returns on government securities, supported the bottom line. Consequently, the profit after tax was recorded higher at PKR 420.7m during 9MFY24 as opposed to PKR 318.0m in the corresponding period last year. The growth in investment

income is consistent with industry trends. However, following decline in interest rates, the investment income may decrease going forward as half of the PIBs portfolio is on floating rate

Investment portfolio is tilted towards government securities

The investment portfolio slightly increased to PKR 2.9b (CY23: PKR 2.8b; CY22: PKR 2.2b) during the ongoing year on account of increased liquidity parked in government securities primarily PIBs. Due to high benchmark rates during the review period, the asset class remained inclined towards debt market products with some portion of investment in equity-based funds being divested during the rating review period. Given around 63% of the portfolio is vested in government securities coupled with remaining majority constituting of stable and high rated mutual funds, the credit risk emanating from the investment mix is considered manageable. Price risk is also rationalized as 51% of the mutual funds held under AWS category entails money market mutual funds.

Moreover, with the reduction in policy rate during the ongoing year, the unrealized gain on government securities under AFS portfolio amounted to PKR 49.6m as opposed to loss of PKR 5.7m in the preceding year while unrealized gain on mutual funds stood at PKR 6.6m (CY23: PKR 12.8m; CY22: PKR 11.9m). Lastly, the unrealized gain on equity securities held under HFT yielded an unrealized gain of PKR 31.0m vis-à-vis PKR 32.0m in the preceding year.

Going forward, investment's policy involves around making diversified investments while ensuring a sound balance between risk and return. As per management, equity investments are projected to reach 10%-25% of the investment portfolio. Subsequently, the aim is for the growth trajectory in investment income to support the bottom line of the Company.

INVESTMENTS	CA	22	CY	723	9M(CY24
Equities	90.3	4.2%	139.5	5.0%	173.7	5.9%
Mutual Funds	993.5	45.7%	802.1	28.7%	647.9	22.10
Equity Securities	1,083.8	49.8%	941.6	33.7%	821.6	28.00
Government securities (PIBs & T-bills)	873.7	40.2%	1,482.6	53.1%	1,849.8	63.0°
Sukuk	25.0	1.1%	25.0	0.9%	25.0	0.9%
Term Finance Receipts	193.4	8.9%	343.8	12.3%	237.7	8.1%
Debt Securities	1,092.1	50.2%	1,851.4	66.3%	2,112.5	72.0
Total	2,175.9	100.0%	2,793.0	100.0%	2,934.1	100.0

Liquidity Profile remains Strong on account of exposure in government securities and adequate coverage of liabilities

The quantum of liquid assets increased on a timeline to PKR 3.4b (CY23: PKR 3.2b; CY22: PKR 2.6b) by end-sept'24; the same is dominated by government securities however, in relation to net technical reserves, the same declined to 321.5% (CY23: 406.9%; CY22: 350.8%) by end-sept'24 owing to higher unearned premium reserve as on outcome of inherent cyclicality prevalent in the insurance sector. The absolute value of net technical reserves is expected to reduce once the unearned premium reserves are realized by end-CY24. Nevertheless, despite the aforementioned decline, the liquidity profile remained sound. Moreover, insurance debt in relation to gross premium remained range-bound at 40.8% (CY23: 41.7%; CY22: 41.5%) on account of growth in business volumes and policy renewal falling in the month of June (due to timing difference in premium received from Lakson group clients). Moreover, the operating cash flows in terms of net premium revenue were largely maintained on a timeline at 17.8%

(CY23: 49.7%; CY22: 15.2%) during 9MCY24; however, the same was recorded higher during the outgoing year largely on account of growth in the insurance premium received.

Capitalization continues to support future growth plans

CENI's equity based improved to PKR 3.0b (CY23: PKR 2.8b; CY22: PKR 2.4b) on account of internal capital generation. Improvement was manifested in the unappropriated profit to the tune of PKR 2.0b (CY23: PKR 1.8b; CY22: PKR 1.4b) during the ongoing year. The Company is considered sound from solvency risk point of view as the Company has adequate cushion in terms of admissible assets over its liabilities. Moreover, the operating leverage remained similar to outgoing year at 42.4% (CY23: 42.4%; CY22: 44.1%) due to growth in equity and net premium revenue. The adjusted financial leverage ratio also increased to 34.5% (CY23: 28.1%; CY22: 30.5%) in line with increase in net technical reserves to PKR 1.0b (CY23: PKR 793.4m; CY22: PKR 741.6m) by end-9MCY23; the increase in the technical reserves was largely manifested in unearned premium reserves. Nevertheless, unearned premium has an element of cyclicality attached as majority of the new business was reaped in July'24. The leverage indicators are projected to remain at around current levels during the rating horizon. Overall financial risk indicators are aligned with peer median.

Century Insurance Company Limited Appendix I FINANCIAL SUMMARY PKR in Million **BALANCE SHEET** CY20 CY21 CY22 CY23 **9MCY24** Cash and Bank Balances 454.4 725.5 426.5 436.3 432.0 Investments 1,678.8 1,807.8 2.175.9 2,793.0 2.934.1 554.7 541.1 766.8 822.0 963.5 Insurance Debt Liquid Assets 2,133.2 2,533.3 2,602.4 3,229.2 3,366.1 3,402.8 3,850.5 5,274.1 **Total Assets** 4,282.4 5,072.2 Paid up capital 503.0 503.0 553.3 553.3 553.3 **Total Equity** 2,049.1 2,265.0 2,429.0 2,823.1 3,032.1 **Total Liabilities** 1,318.9 1,536.9 1,786.8 2,168.9 2,426.5 **INCOME STATEMENT CY21** CY20 CY22 CY23 9MCY24 Gross Premium Revenue 1,371.2 1,601.3 1,847.3 1,969.0 1,771.7 897.6 Net Premium Revenue 846.1 1,072.4 1,197.1 964.0 **Net Claims** 360.2 449.7 561.5 618.5537.8 209.2 182.8 195.5 237.0 120.7 **Underwriting Profit** 79.5 **Investment Income** 116.0 182.2 449.9 404.3 76.9 62.4 Other Income 63.5 52.8 65.3 **Profit Before Tax** 342.4 389.6 495.2 830.1 654.2 **Profit After Tax** 242.6 277.5 313.4 496.8 420.7 **RATIO ANALYSIS** CY20 CY21 CY22 **9MCY24** CY23 Market Share (%) 1.4% 1.5% 1.4% 1.2% 1.2% Cession Ratio (%) 37.1% 39.4% 38.8% 36.7% 38.6% 49.6% 43.3% 52.3% Gross Claims Ratio (%) 67.6% 43.1%Net Claims Ratio (%) 42.6% 50.1% 52.4% 51.7% 55.8% 31.7% Underwriting Expense Ratio (%) 35.8% 28.1% 28.1% 28.5% **Combined Ratio** 78.4% 78.2% 80.5% 80.2% 87.5% Operating Leverage (%) 41.3% 39.6% 44.1% 42.4% 42.4%* Adjusted financial Leverage (%) 24.1% 27.8% 30.5% 28.1% 34.5% Insurance Debt/ Gross Premium 40.5% 33.8% 41.5% 41.7% 40.8%*

432.1%

401.5%

350.8%

406.9%

Liquid assets to Adjusted Technical Reserves

321.5%

^{*}Annualized

REGULATORY DI	SCLOSURES			Appendix II					
Name of Rated Entity	Century Insurance (Company Limited							
Sector	Insurance								
Type of Relationship	Solicited								
Purpose of Rating	Insurer Financial Strength (IFS) Rating								
p	_	Medium to	Outlook/ Rating						
	Rating Date	Long Term	Watch	Rating Action					
	RATING TYPE: IFS								
	31-Dec-24	AA (IFS)	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	27-Dec-23	AA (IFS)	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	15-Dec-22	AA (IFS)	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	31-Mar-22	AA (IFS)	Stable	Harmonized					
	29-Dec-21	AA-	Stable	Reaffirmed					
Rating History	31-Dec-20	AA-	Stable	Reaffirmed					
,	31-Dec-19	AA-	Stable	Upgrade					
	28-Dec-18	A+	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	15-Nov-17	A+	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	23-Aug-16	A+	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	28-Jul-15	A+	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	24-Jun-14	A+	Stable	Reaffirmed					
	8-Mar-13	A+	Stable	Upgrade					
	19-Mar-12	A	Stable	Reaffirmed					
Instrument Structure	N/A								
	VIS, the analysts i	nvolved in the rat	ing process and mem	bers of its rating					
Statement by the	committee do not	have any conflict of	of interest relating to	the credit rating(s)					
Rating Team	mentioned herein. T	This rating is an opin	nion on insurer financia	al strength only and					
8	is not a recommend			0 ,					
				ongest to weakest.					
	VIS' ratings opinions express ordinal ranking of risk, from strongest to weakest, within a universe of credit risk. Ratings are not intended as guarantees of credit								
Probability of Default	quality or as exact measures of the probability that a particular issuer or particular								
	debt issue will default.								
			m sources believed to	. 1					
	reliable; however, VIS does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or completeness								
	of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the								
Disclaimer	results obtained from the use of such information. For conducting this								
Disciannei	assignment, analyst did not deem necessary to contact external auditors or								
	creditors given the unqualified nature of audited accounts and diversified c profile. Copyright 2024 VIS Credit Rating Company Limited. All rights re-								
	Contents may be used by news media with credit to VIS.								
	Name	1	Designation	Date					
Due Diligence	Mr. Asif Mehmoo		ce & Compliance Officer						
Meeting	Mr. Sabzali Piran		Financial Officer	2024					
5		311101							