

2021

# U.S. Independent Agent Performance & Satisfaction Study

**EXECUTIVE BRIEFING** 





## J.D. POWER INSURANCE INTELLIGENCE: OUR APPROACH



Leverage the Voice of the Customer to Transform Your Business

# In the last 20 years, the % DWP attributable to the IA channel of Personal Lines Auto has...?

- (1) Increased
- (2) Decreased
- (3) Stayed the same

https://www.polleverywhere.com/multi ple\_choice\_polls/7gesRZOqd8GqnT8XPYe tb?preview=true&controls=none



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## Study Answer is "Stayed the same"



#### **Key Industry Trends**

Consumer participation trends continue...

 Consumers are choosing those carriers that are best able to address modern insurance needs; competitive rates and convenient onboarding are prerequisites. Service is expected.



Source: S&P Global, NAIC NOTES: Allstate includes NatGen. Liberty Mutual includes State Auto.

## MARKET TRENDS A consumer-centric view of behaviors that influence market behavior

#### **Key Industry Trends**

### The modern insurance consumer: behavioral trends

The modern auto insurance consumer increasingly views the product as a 'consumer good' which they manage based upon perceptions, price and delivery; however, they are demanding...





### VALIDATION: being relevant at the point of sale

Most consumers are only aware of a few brands and seek validation in deciding whom to quote



## Younger consumers seek VALIDATION from those they

Source: J.D. Power Insurance Shopping Study

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**Key Industry Trends** 

## EXECUTION: no unforced errors...

A likely distant future service promise combined with low interaction frequency demands flawless execution at each interaction to maximize retention





Satisfaction is converging among major carriers—consumers see less difference



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Source: J.D. Power Auto Insurance Satisfaction Study

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#### **Key Industry Trends**

### Consumer-centric automation considerations

Automated processes create exciting efficiency opportunities; however, consumer-centric design is more than personalization— consumers expect certain insurance product traits that may not be obvious



Source: Novarica Research Council, Q1 2021, Deloitte, JD Power

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# INDEPENDENT AGENT SATISFACTION

#### **Study Overview**

What you need to know about the 2021 Independent Insurance Agent Satisfaction Study:



#### **2021 Overall Performance**

### After declining last year, IA Satisfaction rebounds to new highs

Overall IA Satisfaction (OSAT) with Personal Lines insurers improves to 750 (on a 1,000-point scale) and Satisfaction with Commercial Lines insurers improves to 740 in 2021.

The **Quoting factor** is influential in driving the year-over-year improvement for both agent types. Additionally:

- The Support and Communication factor is a leading driver for improvement in Personal Lines
- Servicing Policies is a leading driver among Commercial Lines
- The Claims factor has the largest YoY improvement at 58 index points for Commercial lines

#### IA Satisfaction Trend: Personal and Commercial Lines



**Overall Index and Factor Performance** 



#### **2021 Insurer Performance**

Erie Insurance is highest ranked in Personal lines while Auto-Owners receives top marks in Commercial lines

Erie insurance improves a significant 49 pts. to finish first ahead of Auto-Owners Insurance, which had won the award the last 2 years in Personal lines.

 Erie leads the industry in all 6 factors, after improving across the board, and improving significantly in 4 of 6 factors

Auto-Owners Insurance maintains the highest score in Commercial lines after improving to 838.

 Auto-Owners leads the industry across all factors



#### **Commercial Lines** vs. 2020 vs. 2020 Auto-Owners Insurance 838(•) 17 857 () 49 () The Hartford 777 (�) 60 () 835 ( ) 19 Liberty Mutual 750 16 0 **CNA** Financial 740 69() 0 Commercial Lines Average 740 29 () 18 () Chubb 733 (5) (1)AIG 732 # (19)Travelers 732 26 Nationwide 714 () 93 () 41 () Progressive 713 --# Cincinnati Insurance 783\*() # 29\* Zurich 735\* 23 18\* Great American Insurance 725\* 39 70\* () Markel 709\* 44

2021 Overall Independent Agent Satisfaction Index

Overall Index (on a 1,000-point scale)

Overall Index (on a 1,000-point scale)

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Notes: (•) Denotes a significant difference; \*Small sample size (n=30-99); # Insufficient sample

(n<30) data not shown

What are the 3 most important factors for Personal Lines Agents in their Carrier Relationship?

- (1) Commissions
- (2) Support & Communications (marketing/training)
- (3) Servicing (tech/dashboard)
- (4) Product Offerings
- (5) Claims
- (6) Quoting

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## (1) Commissions

- (2) Support & Communications (marketing/training)
- (3) Servicing (tech/dashboard)
- (4) Product Offerings
- (5) Claims
- (6) Quoting

## Study Answer is Support/Communications, Commissions & Product Offerings



**Commercial & Personal Lines: KPI Performance** 

# Two of the top 3 KPIs are the same between lines of business, with Flexibility during onboarding/design the #1 issue

**Top Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Comparison** 



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# PERSONAL LINES PERFORMANCE

#### Personal Lines: The Power of Benchmarking

### Mystery Carrier's Personal Lines improves across the board, led by Claims and Support/Communication

Claims Process is now on-par with industry average; Servicing Policies has the largest deficit.



#### **Range of Performance by Index Factor**

Biggest opportunity for improvement compared to Industry

#### **Personal Lines: Performance Analysis** The Power of Benchmarking

Servicing Policies, Support/Communication, and Quoting are Mystery Carrier's greatest pain points in Personal Lines

- Support/Communication contributed most to YoY improvement, driven by:
  - Usefulness of training/educational materials
  - Helpfulness of marketing reps.

#### Mystery Carrier vs. Industry

- Key areas of opportunity vs. industry are in:
  - Helpfulness—biggest gaps are both servicing and marketing reps.
  - Servicing—Ease of making changes and Quality of dashboard



What do Personal Lines agents view as the Top 2 most important Critical to Quality KPI metrics for Carriers?

- (1) Attending training sessions
- (2) Easy to find support materials
- (3) Sufficient compensation
- (4) Flexibility during onboarding
- (5) Easy access to dashboard

https://www.polleverywhere.com/multi ple\_choice\_polls/2RGV7M1UmCo2chjmn 0PEp?preview=true&controls=none



What do Personal Lines agents view as the Top 2 most important Critical to Quality KPI metrics for Carriers?

- (1) Attending training sessions
- (2) Easy to find support materials
- (3) Sufficient compensation
- (4) Flexibility during onboarding
- (5) Easy access to dashboard

# Study Answer is "Flexibility during onboarding & Easy to find support..."

#### Personal Lines: KPI Performance

### Less than 50% of Personal Lines agents state carriers are meeting the most important KPI

Personal Lines Top Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)



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# COMMERCIAL LINES PERFORMANCE

Mystery Carrier's Commercial Lines improves significantly in every factor, led by Claims and Servicing



**Range of Performance by Index Factor** 

Biggest opportunity for improvement compared to Industry



#### **Commercial Lines: Performance Analysis** The Power of Benchmarking

While driving YoY increase, Quoting/Underwriting is Mystery Carrier's greatest pain point in Commercial Lines

**Quoting/Underwriting weaknesses:** 

- Strength of relationship w/ underwriters
- Accuracy of initial quote

#### Mystery Carrier vs. Average (2021):

- Other key areas of opportunity vs. industry are in:
  - Product Offerings/Risk Appetite: Broadness of risk appetite
  - Support: Helpfulness of marketing reps
  - Servicing: Quality of online dashboard



Weighted Gap Analysis: Mystery Carrier YOY

Where do Commercial Lines agents see the biggest room for improvement from their Carrier Relationship?

- (1) Flexibility during design/onboarding
- (2) Online support materials are easy to find
- (3) Receive a quote in <2 hrs.
- (4) Support for targeted industries

https://www.polleverywhere.com/multi ple\_choice\_polls/7hHsk0huXcTWCDEjK4v OZ?preview=true&controls=none Where do Commercial Lines agents see the biggest room for improvement from their Carrier Relationship?

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- (3) Receive a quote in <2 hrs.
- (4) Support for targeted industries

## Study Answer is "Receive a quote in <2 hrs."

#### **Commercial Lines: KPI Performance**

### Carriers notably improve in making support materials easy to find on dashboards

**Commercial Lines Top Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** 



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# SUCCESS FACTORS: CARRIER PERFORMANCE

#### **Key Success Factors**

Alignment, execution and efficiency are the key success components of a modern IA carrier

#### How well is your agency model aligned to your business objectives? Alignment Industry & Market Support Underwriting and Product Placement ٠ Commitment to Agent How well are you performing against alignment objectives? Execution Delivering on IA Expectations ٠ Providing Support to IAs ٠ Delivering Quality Digital Platforms ۰ How cost competitive are your operations? Automation everywhere More robots please, resilient and available ٠ Efficiency Marketing support growth initiatives ٠

**Success Factors** 

#### **Execution: Providing Channel Options**

### IAs value using multiple channels for communication

While multiple-channel usage is lower this year, IAs who have used 4 or more channels are much more satisfied than those only using 1 channel.

In fact, IAs who are most engaged with different channels are also more likely to use digital channels—such as digital chat and mobile app—which yield notably higher satisfaction than the most used channels of phone and email.

However, usage of chat and mobile apps are much lower than the traditional servicing channels, indicating insurers need to better promote these digital tools or ensure that capabilities are similar to traditional channels to meet IAs needs.





#### Improve Ease of Doing Business

# Low-effort experiences yield greater satisfaction

- IAs are most satisfied when they have a low-effort experience with an insurer, yet less than one-half of IAs fall into this category.
- Low effort is much less common among Commercial Lines (35%) compared to Personal Lines (44%)

#### Effort Working with Insurer and Overall Satisfaction



Note: Effort is measured on a 5-point scale, where 1=Very little effort, 5=Great deal of effort (lower score is

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# **Questions**?