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## **HARLEYSVILLE INSURANCE NAMED TO WARD'S TOP 50 FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

HARLEYSVILLE, PA — For the second year in a row, The Harleysville Insurance Companies have been named to the Ward's 50 Benchmark Group for outstanding financial results in the areas of safety, consistency and performance over the past five years.

“We are honored to have once again been recognized as among the best in the property and casualty industry,” commented Walter R. Bateman, chairman, president and CEO of Harleysville. “In an increasingly difficult market, Harleysville has continued to demonstrate the discipline and financial strength it takes to be ranked among the best.”

Ward Financial, a Cincinnati-based insurer management consulting and investment banking firm, compiles the list each year using information from state regulators. The data is then analyzed to determine the “best practices” the top companies use to help them perform successfully. Some of these practices include a low employee turnover rate, generous incentive and compensation plans, emphasis on education and high levels of productivity.

“At Harleysville, we strive to be an employer of choice,” explains Bateman. “We invest in our people by offering continuing education and professional development programs, management training and growth opportunities that keep them—and therefore the company—on the cutting edge.”

When evaluating companies, Ward's looks at the financial history of the company, including surplus and premiums, adjusted net income, risk-based capital and compound annual premium growth. They also examine performance measures such as return on average equity, return on average assets and return on total revenue. More on Ward's can be found on their Web site, [www.wardinc.com](http://www.wardinc.com).

The Harleysville Insurance network, headquartered in Harleysville, Pa., has operations in 32 states, providing a variety of insurance-related products and services. Property and casualty insurance coverages for businesses and individuals are marketed through more than 3,000 independent insurance agencies. Harleysville's address on the Internet is [www.harleysvillegroup.com](http://www.harleysvillegroup.com).

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