



Snapshot

Nov. 22 Update

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

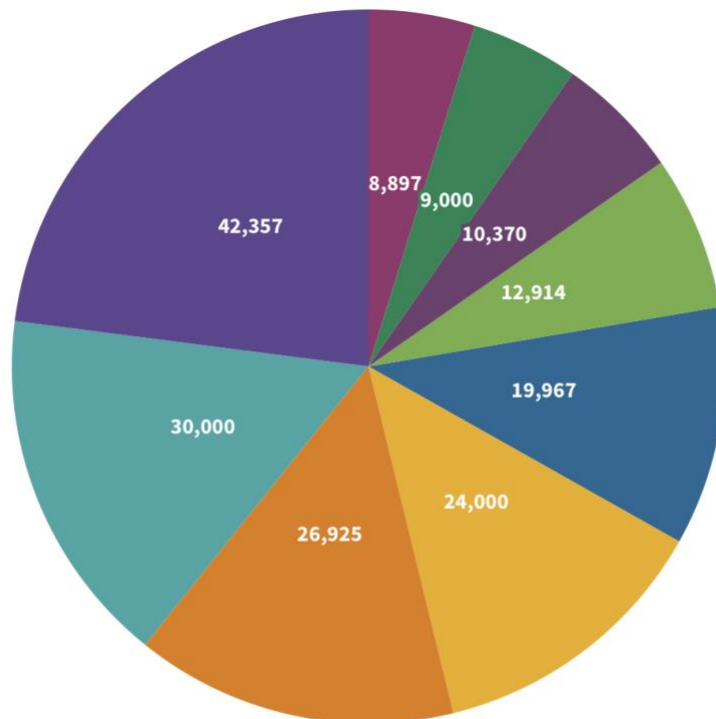
PAR Snapshot: November 22 Update *Louisiana Property Insurance Crisis*

Eleven Insurers Have Become Insolvent

As the epicenter of climate disasters, hurricane-battered Louisiana is in the middle of a property insurance crisis. The destruction of Hurricanes Delta, Ida, Laura and Zeta have pushed several insurance providers to the point of insolvency, costing billions of dollars in damages and paid losses.

A [report from the Legislative Auditor's Office](#) said 11 insurers have been declared insolvent between July 2021 and September 2022, and [an article from The Advocate/The Times-Picayune](#) said an additional 12 have withdrawn from the state since 2020.

Insolvent Companies & Terminated Policies



- Access Home Insurance Co
- Americas Insurance Co.
- Fednat Insurance Co.
- Gulfstream Property & Casualty Insurance Co.
- Lighthouse Property Insurance Corp.
- Maison Insurance Co.
- Southern Fidelity Insurance Co.
- State National Fire Insurance Co.
- Weston Property & Casualty Insurance Co.

Source: The Advocate, LA Department of Insurance, LA Legislative Auditor

*Lighthouse Property Insurance Corporation includes affiliate Lighthouse Excalibur Insurance Company

*Gulfstream Property and Casualty Insurance Company includes affiliate Gulfstream Select Insurance Company

Before going broke, the 11 insurers held a combined 184,000 policies.

Southern Fidelity Insurance Company and Lighthouse Property Insurance Corporation accounted for the most dropped policies. Between the two providers, more than 70,000 policies were terminated.

When insurance companies become insolvent, the state-chartered Louisiana Insurance Guaranty Association offers a safety net to property owners, paying the failed insurers' outstanding claims. The association received state approval in July to borrow up to \$600 million to help cover those mounting costs as the number of insolvent companies grew.

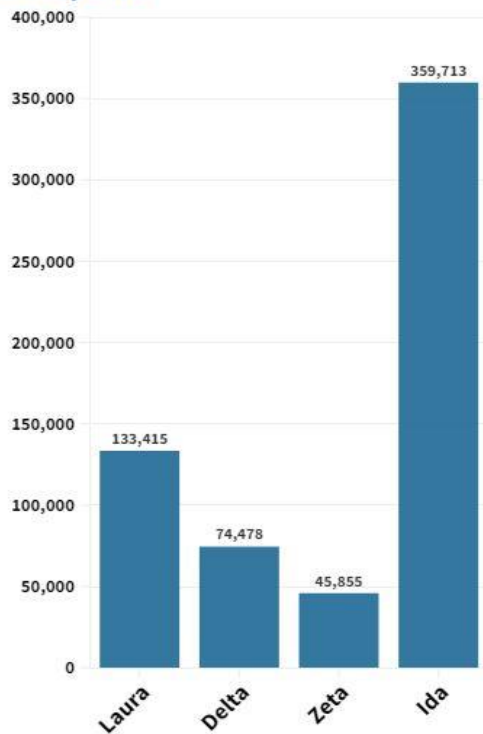
That debt will be paid by assessing a fee on Louisiana's other insurance companies. Those insurers in turn can recoup that fee cost by either increasing rates on policyholders or taking a premium tax credit from the state. Most companies are expected to take the tax credit, officials have said.

Beyond claims, the company failures mean policyholders must find new insurance coverage.

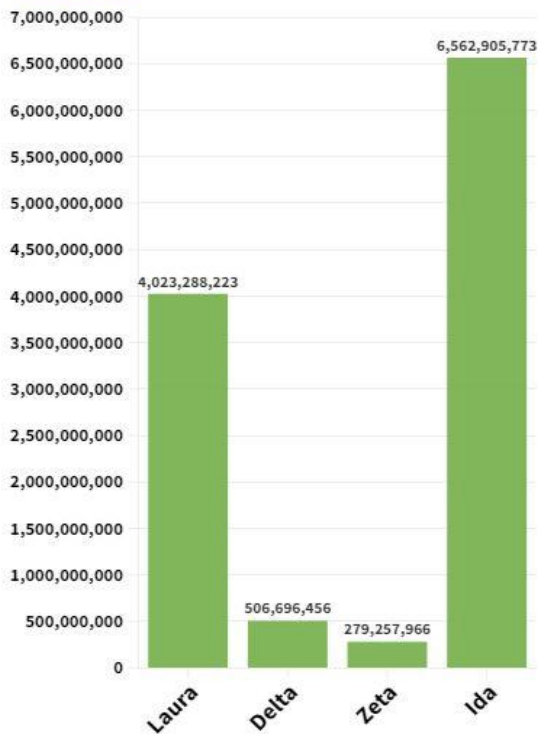
While some insurance companies have stepped in to fill the void, many homeowners have been forced to turn to Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corp., the state-run insurer of last resort. Citizens is now one of the biggest insurance providers in the state, with more than 128,000 policyholders – compared to about 35,000 policies before Hurricane Laura. Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon said that Citizens currently covers about 6% of the property insurance market.

Claims Reported & Paid Losses by Hurricane

Claims Reported



Paid Losses



Source: LA Department of Insurance, *The data does not include reserves on reported claims and claims are still pending.

More than 613,000 claims were filed by policyholders for the four storms that struck Louisiana in 2020 and 2021. According to the [Louisiana Department of Insurance](#), insurers paid \$4 billion in residential property claims made after Hurricane Laura. Additionally, insurers shelled out more than \$6.5 billion for Hurricane Ida. Hundreds of millions of dollars more were paid out for Delta and Zeta.

Many homeowners who purchase property insurance are under the misconception that it also insures flood damages. However, flood insurance is a separate policy, usually purchased from the [National Flood Insurance Program](#), and that program is facing its own challenges and raising rates on policyholders.

For more information about the struggles to obtain affordable homeowners' insurance in Louisiana, visit PAR's YouTube page for the recorded Webinar: [Insurance Industry Crisis](#).

Special thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation for supporting PAR's Louisiana Recovery Project.

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