MONTHLY NATIONAL RECAP

This month the package book carried the market — and the fine print carried the rest.

Across 33 states, August's biggest moves weren't the loudest percentages — they were the largest books. Commercial package and businessowners filings touching 20,000–30,000 policyholders set the tone, most of them taking a fraction of their indicated need. Underneath ran the usual current: rating overhauls that swing individual accounts far past the average, and a fresh cluster of carriers walking away from whole classes.

THE MONTH IN FOUR NUMBERS

33 STATES WITH QUALIFYING COMMERCIAL FILINGS	**5 of 6** BIGGEST BOOKS WERE BOP / PACKAGE	**24** SCORING & RATING-OVERHAUL FILINGS	**6** PROGRAM EXITS & WITHDRAWALS

Northeast Auto leads, package reaches

Commercial auto led on rate — Travelers +15.1% in Massachusetts, Utica +12.9%, W.R. Berkley +9.2% — while Nationwide held New York public auto flat behind a 109% indication. The reach story was The Hartford's Spectrum package: +8.5% in MA and +7.2% in CT across ~42,000 policyholders, both far under a ~30% need.

Lead: Travelers MA commercial auto +15.1%

Southeast A quiet month

No workers-comp or commercial-auto rate increase cleared the screen — the one notable auto move was Progressive cutting Mississippi 11.9%. The wider market carried it: AmTrust took 13.9% on Georgia businessowners against a 94.8% indication, and Auto-Owners re-rated nearly 28,000 Georgia package policyholders. (Florida files outside this SERFF feed.)

Lead: AmTrust GA businessowners +13.9% (vs 94.8% indicated)

Midwest / Central Overhauls & umbrellas

Acuity's Kansas commercial-auto filing was 0% on average but a revenue-neutral ISO-2022 rebuild that swings individual autos up to +92%. The Hanover led the wider market at +17.9% on Indiana GL, and State Farm repriced its Missouri commercial umbrella 38.5% — its first change since 2012, with a companion Indiana filing at +25%.

Lead: The Hanover IN small-commercial GL +17.9%

West California liability

California drove the region. Liberty Mutual re-priced its California liability book — commercial package +25.8% (21,628 policyholders) and GL +26.3% — against a 51.9% indication, and Integon (Allstate) won 51.6% on California dealer-contingent commercial auto, its first increase since 2016. Church Mutual led a soft WC line at +14.7%.

Lead: Liberty Mutual CA commercial package +25.8%

RATE TRENDS BY LINE — WHERE AUGUST CONCENTRATED

LINE	TYPICAL APPROVED CHANGE	WHERE IT CONCENTRATED	NOTABLE CARRIERS
Workers Comp	Flat to modest (–1% to +15%)	Soft bureau backdrop; a few carrier LCM moves	Church Mutual (CA +14.7%), Clear Spring (PA), AF Group (flat)
Commercial Auto	+9% to +15% (0% overhauls underneath)	Northeast rate; Midwest/West structural rebuilds	Travelers, Utica, W.R. Berkley, Acuity (0% swing +92%), Integon
BOP / Package	+3% to +9% on the big books; +14%–58% on small	The month's largest books; wide indicated gaps	Auto-Owners, The Hartford, State Farm, AmTrust, Lyndon Southern
General Liability	+14% to +26%	Small-commercial GL; contractors & habitational	The Hanover, Nationwide, Liberty Mutual, Spinnaker
Umbrella / Excess	+12% to +38%	Excess firming; several first-in-years repricings	State Farm, Central Mutual, Brethren Mutual
Sports & Wellness GL	+52.3% + medical-limit cut	Great American's multi-state Vantapro takeover (RI, WV)	Great American

How the recap is built. Aggregated from the four regional editions — approved (disposed) SERFF commercial filings in August 2026, severity 3–5, 1,000+ policyholders (relaxed for structural changes), across all commercial lines. Personal lines excluded.

THE BIG PICTURE

August inverted the usual read: the story wasn't the biggest percentage, it was the biggest book. Five of the six largest filings by policyholder count were commercial package or businessowners programs — Auto-Owners in North Carolina (31,223) and Georgia (27,872), The Hartford in Massachusetts (24,991) and Connecticut (17,178), State Farm's Maryland multi-peril (19,394). When the reach concentrates in package lines, Main Street feels the month even though no single rate looks dramatic.

The indicated-vs-filed gap stayed wide and, if anything, widened. AmTrust took 13.9% on Georgia businessowners against a 94.8% indication; Liberty Mutual 25.8% in California against 51.9%; The Hartford's Spectrum books sit at roughly a quarter of a ~30% need; Church Mutual took 14.7% on California comp against 27.6%. Read a moderate approved increase on a stressed package or liability book as a partial payment — the balance is filed and waiting.

The rate line keeps hiding the real repricing. Twenty-four filings this month were rating overhauls or scoring models rather than clean rate changes — Acuity's revenue-neutral ISO-2022 rebuilds in Kansas and Indiana (0% average, individual swings of –30% to +92%), Farmers' BOP360 habitational re-rates, Central's seven-tier Kentucky umbrella, Acuity's Colorado vehicle-history score. On these books the filed percentage is noise; the account's placement in the new plan is the signal.

And the exits kept coming. Six carriers walked away from whole classes or states — Next from Mississippi day-care liability, AmGUARD from California towing, Harco from California trucking, Accredited from the Kansas businessowners market, Midvale from Oklahoma auto dealers, Service American from a California parcel-delivery comp program. Every one is a book of accounts shopping now, most in classes that were already hard to place.

CROSS-REGION PATTERNS

Package is where the reach is

Commercial package and BOP filings dominated the month's largest books. The rate moves look tame (+3% to +9%), but they touch tens of thousands of Main Street accounts each — and they're being taken well below indicated need, so the trajectory is up.

The gap is the tell

The most useful number in an August filing is the indication behind the approved rate. Gaps of two-to-seven times recurred (AmTrust 13.9 vs 94.8; Liberty 25.8 vs 51.9; Hartford ~8 vs ~30). Wide gaps signal a book that's under water and a follow-on filing that's already loading.

Averages are meaningless on an overhauled book

A 0% headline increasingly hides a full rebuild. Acuity's ISO-2022 auto overhauls and Farmers' BOP360 re-rates move individual accounts by 30–90 points while netting to zero. Ask where your client lands in the new plan, not what the filing 'averaged.'

Umbrella keeps firming ahead of primary

Excess ran hotter than the primary lines beneath it — State Farm +38.5% (its first umbrella change since 2012), Central +17.1%, Brethren +20% — a familiar sign that reinsurers are pushing severity assumptions down the tower.

The exit list is a prospecting list

Six class or state exits this month. Towing and trucking in California, day-care in Mississippi, auto dealers in Oklahoma, the Kansas BOP market — each is a cohort of non-renewing accounts. Knowing who sits on an exiting book before the carrier tells them is the whole game.

COVERAGE & STRUCTURAL WATCH

Coverage floors keep dropping

Great American's sports & wellness takeover (RI, WV this month) halves the medical-expense limit from $25,000 to $10,000; Spinnaker added total roofing and open-roof exclusions to its Oregon GL; carriers continue trimming coverage on filings whose headline rate barely moves.

Third-party data is the new rating manual

Vehicle-history scores (Acuity CO), ISO-2022 class-plan rebuilds (Acuity KS/IN), seven-tier weight-based umbrella ILFs (Central KY), and predictive BOP tiers (Farmers BOP360) all landed in August. The underwriting is moving into the model.

Bureau signals cut both ways

AAIS trimmed advisory GL loss costs in Georgia and North Carolina (–8.8% NC), a favorable bureau signal — even as individual carriers filed double-digit catch-ups on the same line. The advisory floor and the carrier's filed rate are diverging.

Figures are filing-level SERFF snapshots via Insurance Xdate; individual account impacts vary. Indicated = the carrier's own actuarial rate need; filed = what was approved. Florida commercial rates file largely outside this multi-state SERFF feed and are not represented.

INSURANCE XDATE

MARKET EXITS & WITHDRAWALS

Where a carrier left the field this month — and the accounts now shopping.

CARRIER	LINE / SEGMENT	STATE	SCOPE	STATUS
Next Insurance (Munich Re)	Day-care general liability	MS	all in-force policies	Class exit / non-renewal
AmGUARD	Towing commercial auto	CA	entire program	Withdrawn
Harco National	Motor-carrier trucking	CA	entire program	Withdrawn
Accredited	Businessowners market	KS	full market exit	Withdrawn
Midvale (American Family)	Auto Dealers program	OK	entire program	Withdrawn
Service American Indemnity	Parcel-delivery workers comp (PDL Atlas)	CA	program	Withdrawn

THE MONTH'S BIGGEST FILINGS BY REACH

STATE	CARRIER	LINE	CHANGE	POLICYHOLDERS	$/POLICY	EFFECTIVE
NC	Auto-Owners	Commercial Package	+3.5%	31,223	$7,816	Nov 14, 2026
GA	Auto-Owners	Commercial Package	+5.8%	27,872	$4,900	Oct 8, 2026
MA	The Hartford	Commercial Package	+8.5%	24,991	$2,858	Dec 12, 2026
CA	Liberty Mutual	Commercial Package	+25.8%	21,628	$3,181	Mar 15, 2027
MD	State Farm	Commercial Multi-Peril	+8.9%	19,394	$2,319	Aug 15, 2026
CT	The Hartford	Commercial Package	+7.2%	17,178	$3,635	Oct 10, 2026
NY	AmTrust	General Liability	−5.8%	10,099	$6,334	Jan 1, 2027
CA	Liberty Mutual	General Liability	+26.3%	8,519	$1,712	Mar 15, 2027
MS	Progressive	Commercial Auto	−11.9%	8,342	$5,645	Oct 7, 2026

WHAT IT MEANS — YOUR MOVE

Re-quote your package book

The reach this month was all in commercial package and BOP, taken below indicated need. Pull renewals on Main Street package accounts and check the indication — a tame approved rate on a stressed book means the next filing is bigger. Auto-Owners, Hartford and State Farm package insureds are the ones to call.

Decode the 0% filings

A revenue-neutral overhaul (Acuity, Farmers BOP360) is not a non-event — it re-sorts every account. For clients on those carriers, model where they land in the new plan; the winners can shop the losers' business, and vice versa.

Work the exit list

Six programs closed this month. California towing and trucking, Mississippi day-care, Oklahoma auto dealers, the Kansas BOP market — those insureds are non-renewing into a hard market. Reach the ones on your prospect list before their carrier does.

ON THE FILING WATCH NEWS-READ THIS MONTH

The full ~10-minute audio rundown walks August's inversion — the month the biggest books, not the biggest percentages, carried the market — plus the widening indicated-vs-filed gap, the rating-overhaul wave, and the six-carrier exit list. Script in the distribution pack.