

From 1680s to today

The history of Aon and its legacy firms is marked with notable accomplishments and industry firsts.

For more information, visit www.aon.mediaroom.com/aon-timeline

1680–1890 ▶

1680s

Hudig-Langeveldt, the world's first commercial insurance brokerage, is founded in The Netherlands. Aon acquired it in 1991, at which time Hudig-Langeveldt is the largest broker in continental Europe.



1862

Frank B. Hall & Co., commercial brokerage, is founded in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. Aon acquired the company in 1992, vastly expanding Aon's brokerage and consulting expertise.



1884

Captain Joachim Grieg sets up a brokerage, then expands into agencies, marine insurance, vessel ownership and operation, and into the rudimentary version of what, a century later, became known as logistics. In 1998 Aon broadened its ability to deliver integrated risk solutions to multinational clients with its acquisition of Grieg Insurance (Norway), turning the profitable company into Scandinavia's largest insurance broker.



1890–1920 ▶

1898

Rollins Burdick Hunter brokerage is founded in Chicago. Aon acquires the company in 1982, adding retail brokerage, reinsurance and consulting expertise.



1899

Alexander & Alexander brokerage, acquired by Aon in 1997, is founded in Clarksburg, W. Va.



1919

Jauch & Hübener (Germany) is founded. The company is acquired by Aon in 1997, expanding Aon's international brokerage and consulting capabilities.



W. Clement Stone founds an insurance enterprise that would become Combined Insurance Company of America, directly selling supplemental life, accident and health insurance policies to individuals.



1920–1950 ▶

1927

Combined moves into airline insurance after Charles Lindbergh's historic non-stop New York to Paris flight.

1928

M. Le Blanc started in brokerage and reinsurance and was joined by M. de Nicolay in 1946, resulting in the formation of Le Blanc de Nicolay (France). The company's acquisition in 1998 strengthened Aon's presence in Europe.



1929

Gil y Carvajal (Spain) was founded. Acquired by Aon in 1998, this key brokerage enhanced Aon's ability to meet the needs of multinational clients.



1939

Combined Mutual Casualty Company is organized, and the company continues to expand with the purchase of the American Casualty Company in Texas.

1940

Ted Hewitt founds Edwin Shields Hewitt & Associates, a brokerage house focusing on insurance and financial services.

1950–1980 ▶

1956–1963

Combined begins international expansion, extending operations into Canada, Australia, Puerto Rico, Britain and Ireland.



1959

Minet Group (United Kingdom) is established. Acquisition of Minet by Aon in 1997 expands Aon's brokerage business.

1964

Patrick G. Ryan founds Ryan Insurance Group, pioneering the sale of insurance and warranties through car dealerships.



1973

La società Nikols is formed in Venice. In 1997, the joint venture of Nikols Sedgwick is formed. In 1999, Nikols Sedgwick Group (Italy) joins Aon and enhances Aon's global client service.



1980–1985 ▶

1977

Hewitt Associates Introduces "Total Compensation Measurement," the gold standard for comparisons of overall compensation for individuals in different organizations.

1982

Ryan Insurance Group and Combined International Corporation merge and operate as Combined International Corporation. Patrick G. Ryan is named president and CEO of the new company.



1985

Actuarial Sciences Associates Inc. (ASA), is established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of AT&T. In 2000, as an independent firm, ASA is acquired by Aon, strengthening Aon's capabilities in human capital and management consulting.

1985–1990 ▶

1986

Combined International purchases Life Insurance Company of Virginia, establishing it as a major provider of life insurance. Aon sells the company in the 1990s in a strategic repositioning to focus on brokerage and consulting operations.

1987

Combined International Corporation changes its name to Aon Corporation.

Aon is Gaelic for "oneness."



1988

Aon's reinsurance brokerage capabilities are significantly enhanced with the acquisition of Reinsurance Agency.

Benfield Group formed.

The concept of Total Benefit Administration™, Hewitt Associates proprietary benefits administration platform is developed, including the first notion of an interactive voice response system and a call center.

Aon's past sets course for future

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1990–1999 ▶

1990

Patrick G. Ryan is elected chairman of Aon Corporation.

1993

Total Benefit Administration, Hewitt Associates benefits administration platform, launches with first client, Upjohn.

1995

Aon is licensed to open a resident representative office in Beijing, People's Republic of China.



1996

Aon is added to Standard & Poor's 500 index.

**STANDARD
& POOR'S**

1998

The American Film Institute unveils its list of the Top 100 greatest movies ever made. Of the top 100, 66 were insured through Aon.

1999–2002 ▶

1999

Aon arranges insurance for Thailand's first subway system, which made its first trip on July 3, 2004, carrying His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.

2000

Aon's capabilities in human capital and management consulting grow significantly with the acquisition of Actuarial Sciences Associates.

2001

Aon signs a contract with the X Prize Foundation to guarantee the \$10 million dollars available to the team who will be the first to launch a privately financed passenger aircraft into suborbital space.

Benfield Greig merges with E.W. Blanch (established in 1957) to form the world's leading independent reinsurance intermediary, the Benfield Group.

2002

Aon named the world's largest "pure brokerage" firm by Business Insurance.

2002–2008 ▶

2003

Aon becomes the first foreign insurance broker licensed in China and India.



Benfield Group creates a single brand identity, represented by the name Benfield and lists on the London Stock Exchange (BFD).

2005

Gregory C. Case appointed president and CEO. Patrick G. Ryan becomes executive chairman of Aon Corporation.



2007

Aon announces a definitive agreement to sell Combined Insurance Company of America (CICA) and Sterling Life Insurance to ACE Limited and Munich Re Group, respectively.

2008

Aon Re Global and Benfield Group Limited merge to form Aon Benfield, the largest reinsurance intermediary in the world.

2008–2013 ▶

2010

Aon becomes principal partner and global shirt sponsor of UK football club Manchester United, the number one sports brand in the world's number one sport.



Aon Consulting and Hewitt Associates merge to form Aon Hewitt, one of the world's largest providers of HR solutions.

2012

Aon celebrates its 25th year as a global brand.

25TH

Aon moves its global headquarters to London, giving the firm greater access to clients, global insurance markets and Lloyd's of London.

Aon Hewitt launches industry's first multi-carrier private corporate health exchange for active employees in the large market.

Aon Hewitt becomes the first company with the ability to design, build, and operate Workday solutions with the acquisition of OmniPoint.

Aon Hewitt advises Fortune 20 company on groundbreaking multi-billion dollar annuity purchase to settle pension liabilities for management retirees and beneficiaries.

2013

Aon and Manchester United announce eight-year extension of their partnership with the announcement of the Aon Training Complex.

2014 ▶

Leading the charge

As Aon looks forward to building our Firm for the next 50 years, we are focused on becoming the destination of choice for the industry's top talent and the world's best adviser for risk, reinsurance and human resources management and HR consulting.

