

surance and asset management services. Following the April 1, 2004 acquisition of Travelers, the company is now a leading underwriter of homeowners insurance and automobile insurance through independent agents. USF&G was another notable acquisiof common stock outstanding (4/14 Proxy). Chief Executive Officer and President: Jay S. Fishman. Incorporated: Minnesota. Address: 485 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10017. Telephone: 917-778-6000. Internet: www.travelers.com

**Total Liabilities** 80125 79533 79016 Past **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '11-'13 to '17-'19 7.0% 5.5% 10.0% 5 Yrs. 12.0% 7.5% 1.0% of change (per sh) Premium Inc 10 Yrs. 6.0% Invest Income 3.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4 5% 5.5% 10.5% 8.5% 10.0%

104602

11102 51419

17604

104938

11241

50922

17370

103812

11850 50895

16271

Total Assets

Reserves

**Unearned Prems** 

Cal- endar	Mar.31	LIUMS I Jun.30	:ARNED (\ Sep.30		Full Year
2011	5371	5503	5605		22090
2012	5523	5529	5666	5639	22357
2013	5517	5603	5666	5851	22637
2014	5823	5875	5925	6002	23625
2015	6035	6075	6150	6225	24485
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	1.89	d.91	.79	1.48	3.25
2012	2.01	1.26	2.22	.72	6.21
2013	2.30	2.13	2.35	2.68	9.46
2014	2.95	2.05	1.95	2.35	9.30
2015	2.70	2.20	2.00	2.25	9.15
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2010	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2011	.41	.41	.41	.41	1.64
2012	.41	.46	.46	.46	1.79
2013	.46	.50	.50	.50	1.96
2014	.50	.55			

Travelers started out 2014 in fine fashion. The insurance giant registered operating share net, which excludes capital gains and losses, of \$2.95 in the March period, which was well above both last year's tally and our initial estimate. The main factor behind the strong showing was a very favorable combined ratio of 85.7% for the interim, which was a 2.8% improvement, year over year. Though catastrophes inched higher, that figure remained low based on the company's historical average. Also, the insurer benefited from a 5.1% favorable impact from reserve releases, which was 1% better than 2013.

The company's segments were a bit of a mixed bag, though the overall trend was positive. Premiums earned climbed at a mid-single-digit rate, as price hikes outdistanced cost inflation. The Business Insurance unit enjoyed record premiums, thanks to continued improvement in rates on renewals. Also, the Financial, Professional & International segment boasted an impressive 47% increase in the top line, as demand strengthened at both the Bond & Financial Products and International units. Meantime, premiums earned fell at the Personal Insurance division, though there were some encouraging signs.

We have boosted our 2014 and 2015 share-net expectations by \$1.00 and **\$0.45**, **respectively**. Though these figures represent a decline from 2013's tally, we feel this is due to the likelihood of higher storm-related catastrophes. Last year was a light one for industrywide losses, and we feel that level is unsustainable longer term. Broader fundamentals remain solid, as price increases appear likely, though at a slightly slower rate. Too, Travelers should post an advance in investment income, thanks to likely increased invested assets.

We have increased our 3- to 5-year estimate, as well. Our optimism is predicated on a higher current earnings base and the likelihood of generally positive prospects for the industry over that period. These shares are now timely. This reflects the company's solid showing during the March period and the consequent positive share-price momentum. These shares may pique the interest of those with a 3- to 5-year horizon, too. Alan G. House June 13, 2014

(A) P/C only. (B) Dil. egs. Excl. cap gains and losses after '02. Excl. nonrec. (charges)/gains in '98, (\$2.01); '99, (28¢); 02, (18¢); '06, 3¢; '07, 14¢; '08, (42¢); '09, 1¢; '10, 31¢; '11, 11¢;

'12, 9¢; '13, 28¢. Excl. losses from disc. ops.:
| March, June, Sept., Dec. Excl. spec. div'ds of '99, 35¢; '00, 8¢; '01, 38¢; '02, 12¢; '03, 7¢; | 21¢/sh. paid 3/04 and 4/04. ■ Div'd reinv. plan '04, 62¢. Excl. extra. losses: '02, 3¢; '03, 9¢. | Next egs. rpt. late July. (C) Div'ds. paid in late (E) In mill. (F) St. Paul only until '04.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 95 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 

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