

20722 1969 6879 2925 7483 27881 31130 to '17-'19

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '11-'13 Past 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow" 12.5% 10.5% 10.0% 10.0% 17.0% Earnings Dividends 17.0% 58.5% 10.5% 11.0% **Book Value** 23.0% 13.0%

2713 6415

27116

Debt Due

Current Liab.

Other

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2011	25432	25234	25280	25916	101862
2012	27282	27265	27302	28769	110618
2013	30340	30408	30624	31117	122489
2014	31708	32574	32759	33099	130140
2015		35125	35225	35575	140450
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHAREA				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	1.22	1.16	1.17	1.18	4.73
2012	1.31	1.27	1.50	1.20	5.28
2013	1.16	1.40	1.53	1.41	5.50
2014	1.10	1.42	1.63	1.50	5.65
2015	1.25	1.50	1.75	1.65	6.15
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2010		.155	.125	.125	.41
2011	.125	.1625	.1625	.1625	.61
2012	.1625	.2125	.2125	.2125	.80
2013	.2125	.28	.28	.28	1.05
2014	.28	.375	.375	.375	

formation and technology based health services, consulting, and PBM). Acquired Oxford 7/04; PacifiCare Health Sys. 12/05; Sierra

UnitedHealth Group stock is up 13% since our September report and is trading at all-time highs. Investors want access to the medical services industry, and what better way than to get in to a Dow-30 component that is thriving due to sweeping reform in the sector. flight to quality is aided by the fact that performance of late has been strong. Third-quarter results bested expectations, particularly on the earnings front, and full-year forecasts have risen in the last few weeks. We now think revenues will surpass \$130 billion for 2014, while share earnings reach the \$5.65 mark.

All business units are set to grow in 2015 according to management's now rosier outlook. Optum gains are rolling in across the board and internationally, where a negative is now turning into a positive; the Amil arm in Brazil took a hit when regulatory changes increased costs, but now price hikes have given it a tailwind heading into next year. For now, we are adding a nickel to our EPS call, putting it at §6.15, but upside is rampant.

Buybacks have been considerable of late, but purchases to expand service nesota. Address: 9900 Bren Road East, Minnetonka, MN 55343. Tel.: 952-936-1300. Web: www.unitedhealthgroup.com.

capabilities may be in the works. Cash flow is immense, so limitations are minimal. This is evident by the nearly \$3 billion worth of shares that have been repurchased thus far in 2014. The M&A landscape in services is silent at the moment, but Optum units will probably be built out further, especially on the heels of their strong recent showings. Reform has heightened demand for these offerings, and this is an ideal time to cash in.

The early stages of an executive succession plan appear to be taking form. CFO David Wichmann was promoted to the new role of president. Initial speculation is that this title positions him to take the CEO perch once Steve Hemsley is ready to relinquish it.

This high-quality equity looks to be approaching full valuation at current **levels.** The blue chip's 3- to 5-year total return potential has narrowed with the recent incline in its share price. Too, the income component trails the Value Line median. An improved entry point will be necessary before we advise subscribers to jump on board here.

Erik M. Manning December 12, 2014

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gains/(losses): '98, (47ϕ) ; '99, 1ϕ ; '00, 4ϕ ; '07, (8ϕ) ; '08, (55ϕ) . Next earnings report due mid-January.

(B) Quarterly dividend initiated 6/10. Dividends historically paid in late March, June, September, and December.

(B) Quarterly dividend initiated 6/10. Dividends \$35.82/share.
(D) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 50 **Earnings Predictability** 95

(C) Includes intangibles. In '13, \$35.4 billion, © 2014 Value Line Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product.