

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 Chairman: Jay S. Fishman. Incorporated: Minnesota. Address: 485 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10017. Telephone: 917-778-6000. Internet: www.travelers.com.

Total Liabilities 79533 79016 78242 Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '11-'13 5 Yrs. 12.0% 7.5% 1.0% of change (per sh) Premium Inc 10 Yrs. to '18-'20 6.0% 7.5% 8.5% 6.0% Invest Income 3.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4 5% 10.0% 5.5% 7.5% 10.5% 10.0% NET DDEMILING EADNED (\$ mill \ A

11241

50922

17370

Unearned Prems

Reserves

11850

50895

16271

11839 49850

16553

Cal-			:ARNED (\$		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	5523	5529	5666	5639	22357
2013	5517	5603	5666	5851	22637
2014	5823	5928	5983	5979	23713
2015	6025	6075	6125	6175	24400
2016	6220	6270	6315	6350	25155
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	2.01	1.26	2.22	.72	6.21
2013	2.30	2.13	2.35	2.68	9.46
2014	2.95	1.93	2.61	3.07	10.56
2015	2.57	2.15	2.20	2.58	9.50
2016	2.60	2.18	2.23	2.64	9.65
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.41	.41	.41	.41	1.64
2012	.41	.46	.46	.46	1.79
2013	.46	.50	.50	.50	1.96
2014	.50	.55	.55	.55	2.15
2015					
	I				1

Travelers ended 2014 in solid fashion. Operating share earnings, which excludes capital gains and losses from investments, came in at \$3.07 in the December quarter, a 14.6% increase compared to the prioryear tally and well north of our \$2.46 estimate. The combined ratio was a positive variable, improving 270 basis points relative to 2013, to 85%. This figure implies that Travelers generated \$15 in pretax income for every \$100 in policies insured. Not only did the insurance giant benefit from a strong underwriting book of business, but industrywide catastrophes were low relative to historical levels.

Earnings might well decrease this year, though we feel this requires a We more color. forecast net premiums earned will climb just shy of 3% for full-year 2015, to \$24.4 billion. Pricing conditions ought to remain generally positive for the foreseeable future, thanks to a strengthening domestic economy and manageable capacity conditions in the broader P/C Insurance market. However, we think that last year's solid loss ratio will be difficult to match, based on recent historical trends. Though the weather is

extremely difficult to forecast for longer time periods, we believe the recent pattern weather (few hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.) might reverse course at some point. Hence, we expect the combined ratio to trend higher in 2015, despite a probably lower expense ratio. Another factor that bears watching is investment income. This line item should gradually advance, thanks to decent improvement at the top line. However, interest rates will likely remain subdued for a while, which would keep bond reinvestment rates in check. We have introduced our 2016 earnings estimate at \$9.65 a share, a 1.6% gain over this year's expected figure.

We have rolled out our 3- to 5-year projections to 2018-2020. Our positive view is based on decent conditions in the broader insurance market and a continued economic rebound on the domestic front.

These shares have many positive attributes at the recent price. They are timely for the year ahead, and also offer alluring 3- to 5-year total return potential, especially when factoring in risk. A decent dividend helps to sweeten the pot. Alan G. House March 13, 2015

(A) P/C only. (B) Dil. egs. Excl. cap gains and losses after '02. Excl. nonrec. (charges)/gains in '199, (28¢); '02, (18¢); '06, 3¢; '07, 14¢; '08, (242¢); '09, 1¢; '10, 31¢; '11, 11¢; '12, 9¢; '13, | late April. (C) Div'ds. paid in late March, June, | (F) St. Paul only until '04.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 55

© 2015 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.