

2004 acquisition of Travelers, the company is now a leading underwriter of homeowners insurance and automobile insurance through independent agents. Has approximately 30,200 employees.

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

**ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '12-'14 of change (per sh) Premium Inc 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 12.0% to '18-'20 8.0% 5.5% 16.5% 5.5% 7.5% 4.5% 8.5% 7.5% Invest Income Earnings Dividends Book Value 6.0% 6.0% 7.5% 10.5% 9.0%

11850

50895

16271

79016

11839

49850

16553

78242

12153

48833

16557

77543

**Unearned Prems** 

**Total Liabilities** 

Reserves

Cal- endar	NET PR Mar.31	EMIUMS E Jun.30	ARNED (\$ Sep.30		Full Year
2012	5523	5529	5666	5639	22357
2013	5517	5603	5666	5851	22637
2014	5823	5928	5983	5979	23713
2015	5888	5931	6000	6051	23870
2016	6100	6150	6200	6250	24700
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	2.53	2.52	2.08	2.57	9.70
2016	2.33	2.30	2.20	2.72	9.55
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	.55	.61			

Travelers enjoyed a solid second quarter. Specifically, operating earnings, which exclude capital gains and losses from the investment portfolio, came in at \$2.52 a share, which was \$0.40 above our initial expectation. The top line was relatively unchanged from last year, both on a net premiums earned and revenue basis. What's more, net investment income declined 9.1%, year to year, reflecting sub-dued reinvestment rates on bonds. That said, the primary factor behind the solid performance was on the expense side of the equation. The combined ratio came in at 90.8% during the interim, a 4.3% improvement from last year. This figure means Travelers made \$9.20 a share in pretax income for every \$100 in policies underwritten. Catastrophes comprised only 3.7% of net premiums earned in the June period, compared to 7.3% last year. We are more upbeat about full-year 2015. We look for share net of \$9.70 this year, a \$0.35 increase from our view in mid-June. This upgrade reflects the strong June-quarter performance, as our estimates for the back half of the year re-

main roughly unchanged. Rate increases

are likely to continue in some segments, though at a more measured pace. Therefore, we don't look for much of an uptick in premiums earned this year. Investment income should remain under pressure, reflecting lackluster bond yields, coupled with volatile equity markets. The saving grace appears to be the underwriting margin, which ought to remain in positive territory, barring an overage of catastrophes. Earnings gains ought to average mid single digits over the pull to 2018-2020, assuming decent conditions in the broader insurance market. Investment income ought to be a larger con-

tributor to profit growth by then. Travelers stock has performed quite well on a relative basis since our June report. That said, these shares still offer worthwhile total return potential over the 3 to 5 years ahead. A decent dividend helps to sweeten the pot, while share buybacks provide a level of support. It should be noted that Alan Schnitzer will succeed Jay Fishman as CEO effective December 1st of this year. Mr. Fishman will

become executive chairman. Alan G. House

September 11, 2015

(A) P/C only. (B) Dil. egs. Excl. cap gains and losses after '02. Excl. nonrec. (charges)/gains in '99, (28¢); '02, (18¢); '06, 3¢; '07, 14¢; '08, (42¢); '09, 1¢; '10, 31¢; '11, 11¢; '12, 9¢; '13, losses in the control of the cont

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 95 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 55