

Receivables 6523 12205 Other 12452 12042 31639 33879 40989 **Current Assets** 29752 7193 12307 26324 31123 Accts Payable Debt Due 6634 9940 7747 18673 Other 42898 49252 Current Liab. 57543

Past Est'd '14-'16 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow" 15.5% 11.5% 14.0% 11.0% 9.5% 12.0% Earnings Dividends 10.5% 40.0% 13.0% 14.0% 10.5% **Book Value** 9.0% 12.0%

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30			Full Year
2014	31708	32574	32759	33433	130474
2015	35756	36263	41489	43599	157107
2016	44527	46485	46293	47535	184840
2017	48723	50040	50260	51377	200400
2018	52875	54200	54400	55525	217000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHAREA				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.10	1.42	1.63	1.55	5.70
2015	1.46	1.64	1.65	1.26	6.01
2016	1.81	1.96	2.17	2.11	8.05
2017	2.37	2.37	2.59	2.47	9.80
2018	2.50	2.65	2.85	2.75	10.75
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.212	5 .28	.28	.28	1.05
2014	.28	.375	.375	.375	1.41
2015	.375	.50	.50	.50	1.88
2016	.50	.625	.625	.625	2.38
2017	.625	.625			

company. It offers products/services to individuals through four segments: UnitedHealthcare (network-based health care benefits), OptumHealth, OptumInsight, and OptumRx (information and technology based health services, consulting, and PBM). Acquired Oxford 7/04; PacifiCare Health 12/05; Sierra Health Svcs. 2/08; Unison

Even while trading at all-time highs. UnitedHealth Group stock is timely. First-quarter results bested the consensus, and expectations are up across the board (more color below). Too, the company deserves to trade at a premium due to its dominant market position, and on the strength of its Optum lines, which continue to post impressive growth figures. The Optum branches began their ascent around the onset of the Affordable Care Act. Industry reform pushes the demand for these offerings higher, and it looks like more alterations to the medical insurance arena are on their way from the Trump Administration. In times of change/the unknown, investors often are drawn to the quality names of a sector, and UNH is at the top of that list, given its membership in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Those in the market for a longer-term holding may want to take their business elsewhere, however, as the stock is already trading well within our Target Price Range for the pull to 2020-2022. Too, the income component here is not up to snuff as a stand-alone metric.

Earnings for 2017 will probably be

about 230,000 employees. BlackRock owns 7.3% of common; Vanguard, 6.3%; FMR LLC, 6.0%; offs. & dirs., .9% (4/17 Proxy). CEO: Stephen J. Hemsley; President and CFO: David S. Wichmann, Inc.: MN, Address: 9900 Bren Road East, Minnetonka, MN 55343. Tel.: 952-936-1300. Web: www.unitedhealthgroup.com.

about \$0.30 a share higher than we initially predicted. Minimizing its ACA exposure has negated a good portion of the losses associated with this business. Also, Optum numbers show no sign of trailing off. EPS is now on track to reach \$9.80 this year and \$10.75 in 2018.

Recent dealings with Merck could have pronounced effects on the medical services field. The crux of the relationship is to develop and simulate the performance of contractual reimbursement models in which payment for prescription drugs is tied to patient health outcomes. Value-based and pay-for-performance setups could be the wave of the future if the findings come back certain ways.

Troubles with the Department of Jus**tice remain a concern.** Twice in the last month, the DOJ has accused UNH of collecting more from Medicare than it was entitled to. The inflated amounts stem, according to UNH, from inaccurate information about the health status of patients. Management immediately responded that it has been compliant with the rules and is transparent. Erik M. Manning

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gains/(losses): '07, (8¢); '08, (55¢); '16, 80¢. Next earnings report due mid-July. (B) Quarterly dividend initiated 6/10. Dividends \$58.95/share.

(C) Includes intangibles. In '16, \$56.1 billion,

historically paid in late March, June, September, and December. (D) In millions, adjusted for stock split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 85 Price Growth Persistence 85 **Earnings Predictability** 95

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