

2004 acquisition of Travelers, the company is now a leading underwriter of homeowners insurance and automobile insurance through independent agents. Has approximately 30,900 employees.

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Past **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '14-'16 5 Yrs. 10.5% 5.0% 14.5% of change (per sh) Premium Inc 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 10.5% 3.5% 5.0% 1.0% 6.0% Invest Income Earnings Dividends Book Value 9.5% 10.5% 4 0% 9.0% 6.5% 6.0% NET DDEMILING EADNED (\$ mill \ A

11971

48295

16320

76586

16746

77024

Reserves

**Total Liabilities** 

13052

48574

17185

78811

Cal- endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Full Year
2014	5823	5928	5983	5979	23713
2015	5888	5931	6032	6023	23874
2016	5981	6067	6209	6277	24534
2017	6183	6351	6400	6451	25385
2018	6550	6600	6650	6700	26500
Cal-	Cal- EARNINGS PER SHARE B				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2014	2.95	1.93	2.61	3.07	10.56
2015	2.52	2.52	2.93	2.90	10.87
2016	2.33	2.20	2.40	3.20	10.13
2017	2.16	1.92	2.06	2.76	8.90
2018	2.50	2.35	2.24	2.56	9.65
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.46	.50	.50	.50	1.96
2014	.50	.55	.55	.55	2.15
2015	.55	.61	.61	.61	2.38
2016	.67	.67	.67	.67	2.68
2017	.67	.72			

Travelers stock has increased nicely in price over the last three months. This occurred even though earnings from operations, excludes capital gains and losses from investments, clocked in at \$1.92, well below our estimate of \$2.16 and the year-ago tally of \$2.20. On a positive note, the top line, as defined by net premiums earned, was just over \$6.35 billion, a year-over-year increase of 4.7%.

We look for the bottom line to take a step back this year, before likely regaining traction in 2018. The Juneinterim combined ratio was 96.7%, which represented an increase of 3.6% from last year's comparable-period tally. Results were constrained by an above-average level of storm activity, which kicked up the loss ratio. At this juncture, we don't foresee things getting any better on this front in the near term. Indeed, Hurricane has ravaged Texas Harvey with phenomenal amount of rain, which may result in losses of \$20 billion, making it one of the 10 costliest hurricanes of all time. Of course, it's too early to tell precisely how much the immense storm will cost the insurance industry, but initial indications are that it will be very sig-nificant. Hence, we look for Travelers' share net to decrease moderately this year, owing to a likely less attractive combined ratio. However, catastrophes can be a bit of a double-edged sword for insurers as these may allow for price increases during policy-renewal season. This is a factor that bears watching in the months ahead. Income from investments ought to provide a shot in the arm for the 3- to 5-year pull. Fixed-income investments account for the lion's share of Travelers' portfolio. We forecast increased bond reinvestment rates out to 2020-2022, as we believe the Federal Reserve will continue to boost interest rates, at least over the next

couple of years.

These shares are no longer in the good graces of our Timeliness Ranking System, having fallen a notch since our June report. Still, conservative accounts seeking a presence in the P/C Insurance Industry may be enticed by the equity's Highest (1) Safety rank, while its decent dividend provides a level of sup-

port and current income. Alan G. House

September 8, 2017

(A) P/C only. (B) Dil. egs. Excl. cap gains and losses after '02. Excl. nonrec. (charges)/gains in '02, (18¢); '06, 3¢; '07, 14¢; '08, (42¢); '09,

1¢; '10, 31¢; '11, 11¢; '12, 9¢; '13, 28¢; '14, | (C) Div'ds. paid in late March, June, Sept., | Paul only until '04.

14¢; '15, 3¢; '16, 15¢. Excl. losses from disc. Dec. Excl. spec. div'ds of 21¢/sh. paid 3/04 ops.: '02, 12¢; '03, 7¢; '04, 62¢. Excl. extra. losses: '02, 3¢; '03, 9¢. Next egs. rpt. late Oct. '16: \$3,848 mill., \$13.22/sh. **(E)** In mill. **(F)** St.

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

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