

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. Has approximately 30,900 employees.

Street Corporation, 6.6% (4/17 Proxy). Chief Executive Officer: Alan D. Schnitzer. Chairman: John H. Dasburg. Incorporated: Minnesota. Address: 485 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10017. Telephone: 917-778-6000. Internet: www.travelers.com

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 '21-'23 10.5% 5.0% 5.5% 3.0% Invest Income Earnings 9.5% 9.0% 4.0% 6.0% Dividends Book Value 10.5% 6.5%

11971

48295

16320

76586

Unearned Prems

Total Liabilities

Reserves

12329 47949

16746

77024

12915

49650

17187

79752

Cal-	NET PREMIUMS EARNED (\$ mill.) A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	5888	5931	6032	6023	23874
2016	5981	6067	6209	6277	24534
2017	6183	6351	6523	6626	25683
2018	6650	6700	6775	6850	26975
2019	6900	7075	7150	7275	28400
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
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	.91	2.28	7.27
2018	2.50	2.80	2.60	2.85	10.75
2019	2.75	2.90	2.70	3.05	11.40
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.50	.55	.55	.55	2.15
2015	.55	.61	.61	.61	2.38
2016	.67	.67	.67	.67	2.68
2017	.67	.72	.72	.72	2.83
2018					

Travelers reported healthy results for the fourth quarter of last year. Operating share net, excludes capital gains and losses, dialed in at \$2.28, which was sharply north of our \$2.01 expectation. Notably, the figure was markedly below the previous quarter's tally of \$3.20 a share, which was a very strong period and thus made for a difficult comparison. The combined ratio came in at 95.5%, which was a significant increase from the December period of 2016. However, the underlying ratio (excludes catastrophes and other events that are considered out of the ordinary) was relatively stable at 92.4%. Specifically, catastrophes added 7.5% to the combined ratio in the December, 2017 period, compared to only 2.2% in the like period of 2016.

We look for a pronounced uptick in earnings this year, with not-too-shabby results likely for 2019. We believe that net premiums earned will advance at a decent rate as the insurance behemoth garners additional business, and probably achieves rate hikes on its policy renewals. This is because last year's severe hurricane season will likely give insurers such as Travelers the upper hand. as claims payouts provide leverage. Also, net investment income ought to trend higher as bond reinvestment rates improve thanks to interest-rate tightening the Reserve. measures by Federal Travelers has also benefited from its equity exposure over the past several months, though a pullback in recent times has tempered some of those gains.

The industry behemoth has a leg up on many of its competitors. Its sheer size gives it the wherewithal to withstand difficult times better than most. A highquality insurance book should also provide for underwriting income long term, barring an overage of aggregate industry losses.

These shares have fallen out of favor by our Ranking System. However, they still offer appeal as a 3- to 5-year holding. Capital gains potential is decent relative to the Value Line median, particularly on a risk-adjusted basis. What's more, a yield of 2.0% adds to the allure and provides a level of support during prolonged market downturns.

Alan G. House March 9, 2018

(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. ops.: '02, 12¢; '03, 7¢; '04, 62¢. Excl. extra. losses: '02, 3¢; '03, 9¢. Next egs. rpt. late April. '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